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Kent on Sunday

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Children's service saved as KCC backs down in face of legal threat

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council has made a sensational U-turn after it was threatened with legal action over its plans to cut a service which protects vulnerable children.

Red-faced chiefs at County Hall were forced to back down over a decision to scrap funding to community interest company Project Salus – formerly Kent Safe Schools – after being taken to the High Court in London.

The award-winning organisation, based in Smeeth, Ashford, provides services for thousands of vulnerable children and young people in Kent, including those with mental health needs.

It offers facilities to improve social skills, educational performance, and emotional health and well-being, including tackling bullying and drugs issues.

The service was provided in-house by KCC for 15 years until June, 2011, when it was transformed into Project Salus to be run externally and staffed by former council employees who were transferred to the organisation.

KCC committed to a three-year grant to fund the important facility.

But in November – just six months into the three-year agreement – the council decided to pull funding, despite the Government's drive to encourage the formation of employee spin-offs.

Project directors Sally Williamson and Peter Heckel threatened to take KCC to court and instructed top law firm Pierce Glynn. It is believed to be the first legal threat of its kind since deep cuts began to fall in Kent.

The judicial review claim was issued in the High Court in London on

Continued on page 2

MUSICIAN IS THE BEST OF ALL FOLK

INFLUENTIAL: Tim Edey scoops top honours in national folk awards **- SEE INSIDE**

CRIME

Sex offenders prison row

MAIDSTONE Prison has been criticised by inspectors after it was discovered that sex offenders are being released back into the community without any treatment that may stop them attacking again.

Foreign prisoners also claimed they were being treated unfairly. **PAGE 3**

COMPETITION

Win country show tickets

THE Kent Game & Equine Festival is being held at the Kent County Showground in Detling next month – and you could win a family ticket to attend for free.

The annual event is a celebration of countryside life and there will be a huge range of events on offer. **PAGE 20**

SPORT

Bay closing in on cup glory

HERNE Bay took a step closer to becoming only the second Kent club to reach the final of the FA Vase after booking a place in the last eight. The Kent League side overcame Larkhall Athletic 1-0 in a thrilling match to set up a quarter-final clash with Shortwood United next weekend. **PAGE 87**

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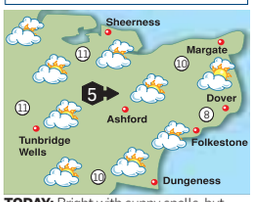

TODAY: Bright with sunny spells, but more cloud into the afternoon. Gentle south-westerly winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy but largely dry. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.16	6.6	13.33	6.3
Margate	02.18	4.7	14.39	4.5
St Mary's	07.06	5.4	19.19	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 4C
Thursday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Friday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Saturday	Max 12C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Statement confirms U-turn to save children's service

Continued from front page

February 8 and on February 14 a judge rejected KCC's initial representations and ruled the issue required urgent consideration by the court.

Solicitor Gareth Mitchell argued that Project Salus was a highly-regarded and critically important frontline service, and the loss would hit some of the most vulnerable children in the county.

"The Project Salus directors and staff took Kent's commitment to support innovative ways of delivering public services at face value, and had developed a highly-efficient model of service provision that would have delivered these services for a substantially reduced cost," he said.

VITAL: Project Salus provides a number of services to support vulnerable children living in the county

But on Thursday – just a week after the judge called for urgent consideration – County Hall made a dramatic U-turn.

It was confirmed in a joint statement between KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter and the directors of Project Salus, which said: "We are pleased to confirm that any issues in our contract have now been resolved amicably and the judicial review claim has now been withdrawn.

"We are looking forward to working together in the future."

Speaking to KoS after the announcement, Mr Heckel said he was delighted.

"We're looking forward to a positive relationship with KCC as we had beforehand," he said.

Mr Heckel would not be drawn into commenting on whether it was the pressure of legal action that forced KCC to overturn its decision, but he said negotiations had been ongoing since last November, when they first learnt of the proposed funding cut.

He added: "It's essential that this service continues. We set the company up to help young people and their families and we believe it is absolutely vital that this work continues."

TECHNOLOGY

KCC launches high-speed broadband bid

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall is asking the public to sign up for new campaign to convince broadband companies there is demand for their services.

Kent County Council has already set aside £10 million for the upgrade project and has been given a further £9.87m from the Government agency Broadband Delivery UK.

However, it predicts that supplying 90 per cent of the county's households with superfast broadband will cost a total of £43m.

The balance has to come from the private sector and the supply companies that will be given the contracts to serve the rest of Kent.

The council has to show there is a high demand for superfast broadband speeds to make it commercially attractive for the firms to invest.

So it has launched the Make Kent Quicker campaign asking people to register their demand for better broadband.

KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development Cllr Kevin Lynes, said: "This is a great ambition and one we can achieve if broadband providers can be persuaded to invest.

"That means we have to be able to demonstrate the demand for better broadband. The greater the demand, the more broadband providers will be prepared to invest."

Kent's existing broadband service is patchy. A survey by price comparison website uSwitch.com placed Canterbury fifth on a list of broadband black spots around the country, with an average download speed of just over 4 Mbp/s in a town with a population of more than 43,000.

However, Ashford has some of the highest broadband speeds in the country. Virgin Media even trialled speeds of 200Mbp/s – some of the fastest in the world – in the town.

Julia Stent, director of telecoms at uSwitch.com said: "Forty nine per cent of people get less than national average broadband speed. What's really surprising is the number of cities and towns that are suffering from slow broadband, dispelling the view that it's just rural areas and small towns that have issues."

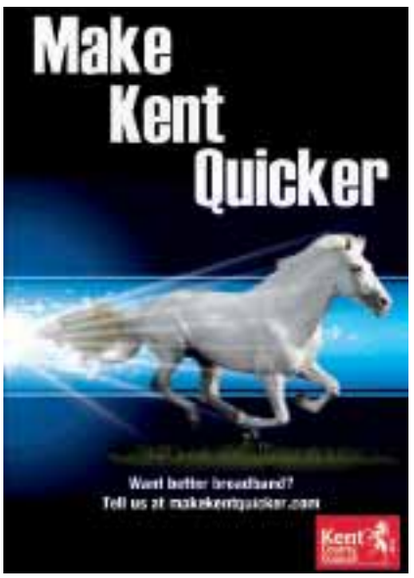
KCC hopes that if enough people register it may even persuade broadband suppliers to connect to the remaining 10 per cent of properties without superfast speeds in rural areas of the county, which it says would cost another £30m.

It hopes the whole upgrade process will be completed by 2015.

Cllr Lynes said: "I want to encourage everyone to register with us and say they want better broadband.

"It only takes five minutes and it could make a great difference, please register now and encourage your neighbours to get involved too."

To register your demand for higher speed broadband in Kent visit www.makekentquicker.com.



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CRIME

Sex offenders released without any treatment

By Ed Hill
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MAIDSTONE prison is releasing sex offenders back into the community without giving them any treatment that might stop them attacking again.

The prison has nearly 600 inmates, mainly sex offenders and foreign prisoners.

A report from the Chief Inspector of Prisons Nick Hardwick also criticises the jail for not doing enough to tackle bullying, or providing good enough services for foreign inmates.

He said: "Although the risks posed by some prisoners were well managed, they were not effectively reduced. There were insufficient places on sex offender programmes to meet the needs of the population. This meant too many prisoners were released into the community without their behaviour being effectively challenged.

"Although sex offender programmes are not a panacea, they do reduce the risk an individual will reoffend, this shortage was a significant concern."

The report suggests around 100 inmates are on a waiting list for rehabilitation courses.

Kent county councillor Malcolm Robertson, who represents Maidstone Central, said: "The whole purpose of Maidstone jail becoming a specialist centre was to put them all in one place and concentrate on treatment and rehabilitation.

"If there are inadequate resources to do that then it is a very sad and worrying situation. This is not satisfactory in a civil society."

The report also said many foreign inmates felt they were treated badly compared to their British counterparts and although some working programmes were good there were not enough, leaving prisoners bored and with nothing to do.

Mr Hardwick said: "Prisoners in our survey reported high levels of victimisation from other prisoners.

"Foreign national prisoners complained vigorously to us that they were treated less favourably than British national prisoners and the prison could not produce monitoring evidence to refute this. There was no dedicated foreign national co-ordinator and there was a striking lack of even essential translated material."

However, the jail was praised for some of the innovative work it carried out, and many fundamental issues such as prisoners' health and the relationship between warders and inmates were described as good.

Integrating foreign prisoners with sex offenders had proved a success, drug use was low, and prisoners were well managed.

Cllr Robertson said: "Good work has been done there in the past and I suspect financial cutbacks are leading to this situation. These sorts of Cinderella services do get ignored but we ignore them at our peril. It may be an easy way of saving money but it can leads to disastrous results later on."

Michael Spurr, chief executive officer of the National Offender Management Service, which manages prisons, said: "The governor and his staff are working hard to address the areas where the inspector found that improvement was required, including specialist provisions for sex offenders and foreign nationals.

"Maidstone is already adapting quickly to the working prison model and protecting the public will continue to be at the core of its work."

■ **More news and sport at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

REPORT: The Chief Inspector of Prisons criticised Maidstone jail over its handling of sex offenders and foreign prisoners

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jail for cowardly attack

WILLIAM Stone, 21, of Perch Close, Larkfield, has been jailed for six years after assaulting a former friend with a wheel brace in Maidstone.

On September 11, 2010, Stone hit the victim – a 20 year-old man – a number of times on the head from behind with a wheel brace. The assault was interrupted by an off-duty police officer. Among the victim's injuries was a three-inch head wound which required stitches.

Stone admitted wounding with intent.

Animals are TV stars

WILDWOOD'S animals are to appear in the new CBBC series of Dick and Dom Go Wild! which begins on Monday. The comedy duo visited some of the UK's busiest wildlife centres to encourage children to get more involved with wildlife. Wildwood's animals, including beavers, wolves, horses, snakes and polecats, feature in nine episodes. The filming, which took place at the Herne Bay centre in 2011, caused a stir when visitors were able to meet the TV duo.

Child, two, left in library

A MOTHER was being questioned by police officers this week after a young girl was left in a pushchair at a Folkestone library.

The child, believed to be aged two to three-years-old, was discovered by library staff in Grace Hill as they closed up for the day on Wednesday.

Police were called at around 6pm and officers launched a hunt for the mother.

The woman was found safe and well later in the evening, and was taken to a police station for questioning by officers.

MURDER

Police 'open minded' about new Aspinall and Lord Lucan claims

SCOTLAND Yard says it is keeping an "open mind" over the infamous murder case involving fugitive aristocrat Lord Lucan, pictured.

It follows allegations made in BBC programme Inside Out that the peer – known as John Bingham – was helped by Howletts Wild Animal Park founder John Aspinall to see his children.

Lucan fled London in 1974 after murdering his children's nanny, believing it to be his estranged wife.

The recent claims – dismissed as "rubbish" by Lucan's wife – were made by the former secretary of Aspinall. The millionaire ran a casino in London with James Goldsmith.

The woman – who refused to be identified – said that between 1979-81 she booked flights for two of Lucan's children to holiday in Africa, where they were then flown to the Gabon so Lucan would be able to see them from afar.

The story was backed up by a former police investigator who believed Lucan had been spotted in Africa.

The claims, if true, dispel speculation that Lucan, who was close friends with Aspinall, the founder of Howletts in Canterbury and Port Lympne near Hythe, threw himself off a ferry.

Years of mystery surround the whereabouts of Lucan, who fled London after the grisly murder. His car was discovered in Newhaven, suggesting he had committed suicide in the English Channel. But his body was never found, leading to the idea that his friends Aspinall, who died in 2000, and Goldsmith helped him flee to Africa.

In the documentary, Aspinall's former PA said she was told to arrange flights for Lucan's children. She also claimed Aspinall sent her a "hidden message" during one of his last interviews, saying Lucan was dead. She added she was happy to give a "full and frank" statement to police.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are keeping an open mind. We wouldn't be able to discuss who comes to us with information."

Since the BBC report aired this week, Lucan's 74-year-old widow dismissed the claims, saying: "It's rubbish, I can guarantee they didn't go to Africa. It's ridiculous, it's false."

She says Lucan hurled himself off a cross-Channel ferry – and straight into the propellers so no trace of him would be found.

A far-fetched rumour started by the tabloids in 1974 reported Lucan had fled to Howletts and begged Aspinall to feed him to the lions.

■ **More news at www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

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CRIME

'Speeding drivers good source of police funds'

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A MAN who made a multi-million pound fortune on the property market says he has the financial skills to help run Kent Police.

Fergus Wilson, 63, and his wife Judith made their fortune building a large portfolio on the buy-to-let market.

The former maths teacher from Maidstone now wants to be elected as the new police commissioner for the county.

He said: "I was concerned about the amount of petty crime affecting our properties that was not cleared up. It may have been low-level crime but the police just don't have the resources."

Mr Wilson and his wife own hundreds of properties, mainly in Ashford and Maidstone.

He said in difficult economic times the main aim of the police commissioner should be to create a cost-effective police force.

He said: "Basically we are in a position where we have to run a police service when we really don't have enough money to do it.

"Anyone else elected would have exactly the same problem. We have to start making decisions that are more important than just how quickly police answer the phone."

Mr Wilson, who also owns a number of racehorses, said he would have a no-nonsense approach to policing.

"I will ask the people of Kent what they want. If people want their money spent in a certain way that is what we should give them," he said.

The elections for the new commissioner take place on November 15. The role will replace the current Kent Police Authority made up of a panel of councillors and lay people.

Like the police authority, the commissioner will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, manage budgets, and set police priorities.

Mr Wilson was unconcerned about his own lack of experience in policing and admitted he had only just learnt that Ann Barnes was the current chair of the police authority.

Another hotly tipped candidate is Colonel Tim Collins, who made his name during the war in Iraq. He hopes to be the Tory candidate but angered police unions when he said the job only needed to be part time.

Mr Wilson said he had a number of ideas that would save money when it came to policing, such as using more special constables and cutting back on vehicle costs.

His other ideas for raising money may not be welcomed by Kent drivers. He gave an example of an officer who had been posted near his former home at his request to catch speeding drivers.

He said: "He got £900 worth of fines. They then said they did not have the resources to do it again. That does not seem very business-like to me. Speeding is a revenue earner."

MONEY SKILLS: Former maths teacher Fergus Wilson made his millions in the property industry

Despite his own brushes with the law (two speeding fines and another for using a mobile phone while driving) the property tycoon said he is pro-police and ready to tackle the challenges.

He said: "A lot of people like my straight talking. I am not someone who believes in a lot of chat. I don't just want to be a police commissioner in name only.

"If I am elected I will be straight round to the nearest police station."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Attempted murder trial

AN 18-year-old girl has been charged with attempted murder following a stabbing in Broadstairs in which a young woman suffered serious injuries.

Jade Kirsty Bennett, of Addiscombe Gardens, Margate, appeared at Margate Magistrates Court on Thursday.

It follows an incident in Granville Road, Broadstairs, on January 19 in which a 20-year-old woman was stabbed.

Cheers at drinks firm

A FIRM specialising in spirits expects to increase export sales by 30 per cent in the next year, after signing a £200,000 deal with a US distributor – just four years after it faced ruin.

Old St Andrews, based in Sevenoaks, designs, bottle and distributes premium alcohol brands, including whisky and gin.

Four years ago the company was on the brink of bankruptcy before being bought out by Bob Gorton, who was then a local business adviser.

Beatboxing for Jesus

BEATBOXING vicar the Reverend Gavin Tyte will be performing at the Wye Church Open Day on Saturday, March 3, from 10am-2pm.

Gavin Tyte who is the creator of the 'Beatbox Nativity' which went viral on YouTube and was featured on the Chris Evans Breakfast show on Radio Two at Christmas, will be performing at the famers' market and also conducting 'learn to beatbox' workshops in the church during the day.

UTILITIES

Don't bother getting your hosepipe out for spring, it's offically a drought

A HOSEPIPE ban looks increasingly inevitable after Kent was officially declared to be in drought by the Government.

The announcement from Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) comes after a major summit of key players in the water industry and the Environment Secretary, Caroline Spelman.

Kent has joined Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire and counties in the South East on the official drought status list.

Southern Water, which manages Bewl Water near Tunbridge Wells, has applied for a drought order so it can extract more water from the River Medway to fill the reservoir. The lake, which supplies customers locally and in Medway, Thanet and Hastings, is currently at 41 per cent of its capacity.

Water strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "This will mean water will be conserved in the reservoir to help secure supplies. It is a precautionary measure which we hope will reduce the chances of us having to restrict customers' water use this summer. We have applied for this permit now because taking water in winter is less likely to have any impact on the environment."

RUNNING DRY: Bewl Water reservoir is currently less than half full

The water companies serving Kent have told the Secretary of State that essential supplies will be maintained this summer but it looks inevitable that hosepipe bans will be put in place.

Since October, 2010, the region has received only 80 per cent of its average rainfall, meaning lakes, aquifers and rivers are below normal levels.

Lee Dance, head of water resources at South East Water, which supplies much of mid Kent, said: "We are having to plan prudently for restricting customers' non-essential use of water by banning the use of sprinklers and hosepipes.

"If the situation does not dramatically improve within the next few weeks, we will need to put in place the drought measures set out in our drought plan."

Water companies are already recommending water saving tips to their customers including taking three-minute showers, and saving water that comes out of the hot water tap before it is warm in a bucket and then using it to flush the toilet or in the garden. Thames Water is offering free gadgets such as tap aerators and shower timers, too.

The lack of water is also causing worries for farmers.

Less rain will mean lower yields for crops.

NFU southeastern spokeswoman Isobel Bretherton said: "Farmers have already been very aware of water shortages and have been making plans to deal with the situation.

"Water resources are very much linked to the wider issue of food security."

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FOOD

Peter's 'peeling' great after his business is awarded title of top chippy in Britain

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO businesses are frying high after being crowned the UK's chip champions.

Peter's Fish Factory on Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, and The Three Tuns Pub and Restaurant in Sittingbourne won titles in the Choice Chip Awards for Chip Week.

The awards, voted for by the public, put Peter's Fish Factory at the top of the league table for fryers in the South East – and such was their popularity they wrapped up the prestigious National Champion title, too.

The Three Tuns is also hot stuff after being awarded the top title in the pub/restaurant category of the competition.

The competition was launched to celebrate Chip Week 2012 which ends on Sunday, February 26, and recognises and rewards the quality chips being served in the UK.

HOT STUFF: Peter Curtis with his top chippy prize and Chris and Carol Haines who also picked up a prize

Now in its 21st year, the competition recognises chips in all their glory, including home-made, chip shop, and even oven.

And competition was stiff; 35,000 chip fans voted with nearly 600 chip shops, pubs and restaurants across the country involved.

Peter Curtis and his staff at the Fish Factory were delighted with the award.

Mr Curtis, who has been in the trade for 44 years, said: "It's unbelievable, we're absolutely over the moon and I can't thank our customers enough for voting for us.

"You have to love what you do and this is our secret to making great chips, that and my loyal staff, many of whom have been with me for more than 20 years, so it really makes me proud to say we've got the best chippy chips in the UK."

> **You have to love what you do and this is our secret to making great chips – it really makes me proud to say we've got the best chippy**
>
> PETER CURTIS, ON HIS AWARD

It was a similar story at the Three Tuns, which dates back to 1468. In charge there are Chris and Carol Haines, who say they are an important part of the community.

Mr Haines said: "We make all of our chips fresh on the premises, from potatoes sourced locally. As you can imagine this keeps us busy, but the feedback is worth it – after all, people tell us they come just for our chips.

"We pride ourselves on producing quality local food and rely on word of mouth, so I couldn't be happier with this national recognition."

Kate Cox, Chip Week campaign manager for the Potato Council, said: "Chip Week is a celebration of the nation's love of chips and as we suspected people are very passionate about their chips, hence why the Choice Chip Awards have been so incredibly popular."

■ **More news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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HERITAGE

Celebrate the shipwrecked madman who changed the face of British architecture

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HE had a short but wild life, and now a big party is being planned to celebrate the 200th birthday of architect Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin.

The visionary was born in 1812 and died aged 40 in 1852.

But during his short, fast-paced life, he was shipwrecked, married three times, widowed twice, had eight children, driven mad and housed in the mental institution Bedlam – as the Bethlem Royal Hospital was known – though he still found time to change the face of Britain's architecture.

He is famous for designing the interior of the Houses of Parliament and the Big Ben clock tower, and is also known as the man behind the-then revival of Gothic style.

He also designed many churches in England, and some in Ireland and Australia.

His children EW Pugin and Peter Paul Pugin, by two different mothers, later continued their father's architectural firm as Pugin and Pugin.

To mark the anniversary, the Pugin Society has announced a conference, New Directions in Gothic Revival Studies Worldwide, to be staged at the University of Kent, Canterbury, and in Ramsgate, there will be a public lecture by Dr Rosemary Hill, Pugin's biographer.

Society patron, and Pugin scholar, Lady Wedgwood, said: "I do hope that in 2012 many people will discover the pleasure of getting to know Pugin's work."

REVOLUTIONARY: Augustus Pugin brought about a revival in Gothic architecture, as in The Grange, his Ramsgate home (top)

Pugin was born in Bloomsbury, London, after his father fled the French Revolution. He is famed for being the catalyst that caused architects and designers to create work in the Gothic style.

Pugin Party organiser Clive Holland said: "He was an iconic figure of achievement, success, failure, history, futurism, art, design, family, community and religion; a potent and dramatic polymath, driven by deep passions for religion, life and work.

"He touches today's world through the legacy of his design, architecture and inspiration for those who follow."

The writer and actor, along with his Ramsgate company Mischievous, are staging the birthday party which is open to members of the public.

Ramsgate is where Pugin moved in with an aunt and then built The Grange, his family home, and St Augustine's Church next door. He later died in the town.

Mr Holland said: "The party promises a theatrical interpretation of traditional birthday celebration, with entertainment, games and cake, all with a hint of the Gothic."

The party is a preamble to a bigger arts project to mark Pugin's bicentenary. Called The Man in the Wide-Awake Hat, it has received Arts Council England funding for research and development of a multi-media production to be performed in Pugin cathedrals and churches around the UK later this year.

Mr Holland said: "With the project for Pugin's bicentenary, the aim is to bring a historic character to a wide audience and awaken an excitement and interest, not only in the person and their dramatic life, but also in his legacy of buildings, influence on architecture and the design of the everyday home."

The Pugin Project is supported by The Pugin Society, and Ramsgate Town Council,

Pugin's 200th Birthday Party is on Thursday, March 1, at 7.30pm at the Oddfellows Hall, 142 High Street, Ramsgate. Tickets cost £12 and £8 for those under 18 and over 65.

Call 07971 223282, email clive@mischievoustheatre.co.uk or visit www.wegottickets.com to book.

■ **More news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

ACCIDENT

Motorist dies in M20 foreign lorry crash

A BELGIAN lorry driver was arrested after a man was killed following a collision on the M20.

Police believe the driver of a Citroen Saxo was hit by the foreign lorry after stopping on the hard shoulder to refuel his car.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. Officers were called to the incident at 6.51pm on Monday and the section of road between junctions 8 and 9 coastbound was closed.

ANIMALS

Dumped rabbits had their ears sliced off

THE RSPCA needs homes for rabbits whose ears are feared to have been cut off. Two white bunnies were found dumped in Quex Park in Thanet. One was missing half an ear and the other had both ears missing. They were found with a black rabbit whose eye was infected. Later, a brown rabbit was found with both of her ears missing. Call Katie on 07595 997674 to make a donation or to offer a home for a rabbit.

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HOUSING

French 'community' puts homeless in work

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A UNIQUE charity providing homeless people with a place to live and the tools to rebuild their lives is due to open in Rochester.

Emmaus, which originated in France, has 22 'communities' in the UK – and just one in Kent – but the organisation is preparing to launch in Medway to reach out to more people in need.

The charity was launched 63 years ago by politician and member of the French Resistance Abbé Pierre to fight homelessness and poverty for the victims of World War Two.

It was unlike other aid movements of the time and provided homeless people not just with food and shelter, but with the purpose of helping others.

A team of 18 homeless men, called 'companions', worked alongside Abbé Pierre to help build temporary homes for mothers and children who had lost everything in the war.

The companions refused to take donations and instead became 'rag-pickers' – collecting things that people no longer wanted and selling them on to raise money to fund house building and help those with a greater need. And so the concept of Emmaus was born.

SUPPORTED: David Robinson benefited from living at the first Emmaus community in Kent

In 1990, the charity arrived in Britain having already spread across the globe, helping homeless people rebuild their lives and give something back to society.

Emmaus set up 22 'communities' in the UK, with one in Dover – St Martin's Emmaus.

And now another is due to launch in Rochester, offering a lifeline to homeless people.

In Dover, the charity is located in a 14th century military fort on the iconic White Cliffs and houses and feeds 21 people who work 40-hour weeks restoring donated furniture and other goods which are sold in shops both on site and in Canterbury.

Marketing manager David Robinson, who arrived at St Martin's Emmaus as a companion three years ago, said as soon as a homeless person arrives they must come off benefits and start work.

The community is also an alcohol and drug-free zone.

Mr Robinson said: "The companions have a place to live, they are fed and most importantly they are safe.

"A lot of the time they find us. They come and go, they can stay here as long as they want; we have two people who have been here for 11 years.

"They come from different backgrounds and have different skills. Homelessness can happen to anyone. Previous to this, I was a general manager for a big German company.

"I got divorced, started drinking and ended up in the Promis Recovery Centre."

But the centre, which treated high-profile clients, was destroyed in a fire in 2009.

"I ended up sleeping under a tree," said Mr Robinson. "I came to Emmaus and now I deal with the marketing. Everyone who comes here works."

Companions are paid weekly, with the charity keeping £5 every week in savings for each person so they have money when they leave. Emmaus even arranges courses like NVQs where possible, too.

The charity relies solely on donations and receives no funding from the Government.

■ **More news and sport at www.yourdover.co.uk.**

PURPOSE: All residents of an Emmaus group have to work

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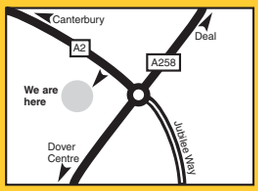

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Folk guitarist in shock at being named BBC musician of the year

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TALENTED musician Tim Edey has been recognised for his amazing work by taking folk music's top award.

Composer Tim was born in Broadstairs, and is famed for his mastery of several instruments. He has now been named Musician of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards held at Salford's Media Village.

At the pinnacle of his 15-year career, he said: "I was absolutely honoured and delighted to have been asked to perform and attend. I was utterly shocked to receive the award for Musician of the Year, I'm still very much in shock.

"Also being awarded best duo with Brendan Power was fantastic. It was a real pleasure attending and meeting so many amazing stars of the world folk music scene past and present."

He made his first solo album aged just 17, with legendary Australian-Irish guitarist and producer Steve Cooney.

Firstly a piano and melodeon player, Tim was taken to a Begley and Cooney concert by his father, and a week later started learning to play the guitar.

HIGH NOTE: Musician Tim Edey

Tim said: "I was obsessed.

"Both Steve Cooney and Seamus Begley have taught me so much about playing music, and I am very grateful to them, along with so many others in the music scene who have had massive influence throughout my life so far."

The 32-year-old said: "Folk music is still a bit fringe in the world of music, but this award will help get our sound out there a little more.

"I lived for a little while in County Kerry, but I have now moved back to my first love, Kent. I have a home with my partner and PR manager Isobel Crowe in Faversham.

"I love playing in Kent – the audiences are so receptive and knowledgeable.

"Medway is a great place and we will be on stage at the Brook theatre soon, plus we are playing at Broadstairs Festival on August 13. There is also a gig at the Tom Thumb Theatre in Margate on March 2.

"Kent is a great place to play and live and we have toured everywhere in the UK, Ireland and Europe. We just love coming back here to relax."

Tim's work includes tracks like Little Bird written for Sharon Shannon, which features regularly on BBC radio shows.

His record company Gnatbite records said: "Tim is very much in demand by the cream of the folk music scene."

For more information on Tim, visit www.timedey.co.uk.

■ **More news and sport at www.yourswale.co.uk.**

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News

HERITAGE

Lift-off for The Wing visitor centre at The Few memorial

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE National Memorial to The Few has been granted permission for a visitor centre.

Councillors agreed plans for The Wing, the new centre the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust plans to build at the popular site at Capel-le-Ferne, between Dover and Folkestone on the famous White Cliffs.

The decision to approve the scheme marks the successful conclusion to many months of hard work by Folkestone architectural practice Godden Allen Lawn, council planners and the trust, which cares for the existing memorial, which has the backing of surviving veterans.

The visitor centre will be in the signature dihedral shape of the iconic Spitfire wing.

There will be room for educational activities alongside a high-tech audio-visual experience to bring the story of the Battle of Britain to life.

The site is already home to the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, a replica Spitfire and Hurricane, and the central statue of a seated airman looking out over the English Channel.

But the trust has to raise an estimated £2.5 million to build and fit out the centre, and a bid has already been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, additional fund-raising will be a major priority over the coming year.

Trust chairman Richard Hunting said: "We are delighted to have won planning permission for this exciting new development, but we recognise that there is a long way to go.

FLYING: Artist's impression of the visitor centre

"We hope people will see the value of what we are trying to achieve here at Capel-le-Ferne and will contribute generously to this great cause."

There will be plenty of opportunities for some fun and a chance to help with some donations.

There will be Airfix Make-and-Paint Days on March 31 and April 1, plus flying events planned throughout the year. The trust is also offering two unique tours of 'Hellfire Corner' led by author Geoff Simpson and featuring lunch with veteran Hurricane pilot Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC, on May 12 and September 8.

For more information on the flying events, call Michelina Caliendo-Sear on 01227 721929 or visit flywithaspitfire.com and for the memorial itself visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org.

■ **All the news at www.yourdover.co.uk.**

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News

EDUCATION

Standard of newest teachers may be hit by funding change

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

UNIVERSITIES offering teacher training could miss out on funding next year after the Government announced plans to switch financial support to school-based training.

In a letter from the Training and Development Agency – the body responsible for teacher training – universities were warned that courses with few numbers of students may lose out on funding in 2013-14.

A number across the country have already been identified as "potentially unviable" and will either have to close or merge with other nearby universities offering initial teacher training (ITT) courses.

The Government is pushing for more school-focused training through 'teaching schools' – a network that trains and supports teachers.

Currently, the most popular path for future teachers is a PGCE – a university-led training programme. But with a reduction in secondary school places and the Department for Education's drive to increase school-led training, universities may have to review involvement on specific courses.

FRESH APPROACH: Teachers' training to be done in a new way

In Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway, run teacher training programmes, including PGCE.

Canterbury Christ Church, one of the biggest teacher training providers in the country, said it was unsure what would be happening next year.

Dr John Moss, dean of the faculty of education at the university, said: "We remain committed to providing initial teacher training."

He explained that more than 1,000 ITT places had been allocated to the university for 2012-13, for mainstream provision such as PGCE. More than 400 further places have also been allocated for the graduate teaching programme of school-based training.

But if specific courses, for example teaching 7-14-year-olds history or a foreign language, have few students, funding may not be made available.

Education experts have raised fears over the changes, warning that, while school-focused training was accepted, funding cuts to traditional courses could jeopardise the high standards of teacher training.

Executive director of the Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers, James Noble-Rogers said: "It is essential that the changes do not inadvertently jeopardise the high quality infrastructure that exists.

"That would do considerable damage to the education of our children and would inevitably lead to teacher supply problems in the future."

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News

COMPETITION

Win family tickets to visit the Kent Game & Equine Festival

THE Kent Game & Equine Festival is among the first of the great regional game fairs in the calendar, and is set to return on March 24-25 at the Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone.

This established event, regularly attended by more than 8,000 visitors, is a celebration of countryside life from fishing and shooting to traditional crafts and locally produced food; and with an exciting array of equestrian entertainment and education, the show offers visitors the ultimate countryside experience.

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The outdoor Supreme Equine Arena will feature international show jumping star Philip Spivey, western champion Shane Borland, Australian horsemanship, a breed parade together with a fast-paced Pony Club horse and hound show jumping challenge.

The show also includes an on-site clay shoot, terrier and lurcher shows, fly-casting demonstrations and coaching, archery, falconry, racing ferrets, vintage tractors and machinery, and a game cookery theatre hosting chefs who will demonstrate how to prepare delicious meals from traditional game meats.

The Kent Game & Equine Festival also hosts an indoor countryside and equestrian shopping village with more than 100 retail outlets.

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You can also enter by post to: Kent Game & Equine Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS before the closing dating.

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HERITAGE

Battle declared to save historic war memorials

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S historic war memorials could receive special protection through a new campaign which looks to restore crumbling monuments as part of the forthcoming World War One centenary.

Moves to secure protection were sparked by the increasing number falling into disrepair, either by neglect or vandalism.

The campaign, launched by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has brought together heritage organisations to form a War Memorials Action Group to review how to protect and restore monuments in time for the centenary of the outbreak of World War One in 2014.

The group will meet twice a year and review money available from the Lottery and how it could be made easier for communities wanting to restore their local monument.

People in Kent are invited to get involved by applying for funding and highlighting memorials that need restoration in time for the centenary.

Over the years, many of the county's memorials have fallen victim to thieves or vandals, most recently in Sidcup where a pair of brass plaques honouring those who died in the two world wars were prised off by thieves and sold to scrap metal dealers.

Chatham's Naval Memorial has to be patrolled due to constant vandalism, and in Ashford the World War One memorial tank was defaced.

Heavy-handed cleaners in Margate damaged a memorial tablet last year by accidentally blasting off the lettering of the names of servicemen.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is encouraging groups to come forward with ideas to celebrate the World War One cen-

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PATROLLED: Chatham's Naval Monument

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IN MEMORY: The tank at Ashford, and the Kennington Memorial during the refurbishment works

tenary involving the restoration of memorials.

Head of the organisation for the South East Stuart McLeod said: "We would be interested to hear from community groups in Kent who have an idea for a project.

"We are actively seeking and welcoming applications for all kinds of heritage projects large and small that aim to mark the anniversaries of World War One."

A spokeswoman for the organisation said it has been contacting groups in the county to let them know about funding and support available.

"As part of this campaign, HLF has set up a War Memorials Action Group, which is made up of funders, heritage organisations and representatives of the local and voluntary sectors," she said.

"It will be meeting for the first time in March to review the issues facing the protection and restoration of war memorials and to identify what may be needed to ensure they are kept in good condition so that future generations are able to learn about them and the significance they hold within our communities."

Restoration work has recently been carried out in Kennington near Ashford on a memorial to 22 residents who lost their lives in World War Two. It will now include a shelter and new bench in the Garden of Remembrance in Ulley Road.

The original memorial had been neglected for many years and was at risk of collapse.

Chris Morley, chair of the Kennington Community Forum, said he was pleased with the restoration work.

It is hoped other projects such as this will be given the green light as a result of the campaign.

■ **To get involved or for advice on funding go to www.hlf.org.uk.**

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News

CELEBRITY

Author's plea for you to share your memories of Mr Pastry

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TO MILLIONS he was the TV funnyman Mr Pastry, but little is known about the later years of one of Britain's biggest stars, who died in Kent.

Now author Michael Chandler is determined to fix that, but needs help from readers who came in to contact with the telly hero.

Mr Pastry was actor Richard Hearne, who died, aged 71, in Bearsted.

Mr Chandler said: "While researching historical plaques in Norwich, I discovered one for Richard outside the Norwich Theatre Royal, and was surprised to find there are no books written about this important comic genius.

"I am now writing a series of biographies of people from that area, and decided Richard should be the first.

"From the late 30s up until the late 50s, Richard was the first person to be labelled a star, working with the likes of Buster Keaton, he was also the BBC's resident clown for 30 years.

"In the 70s Richard was offered the role of Dr Who, but he wanted to play the role as Mr Pastry. The producers refused and gave it to Tom Baker.

"I feel it is important for a new generation to discover his works. He would have been well known in Kent, where he lived from the 40s, so I am hoping readers may either have known him or know others who did.

"I am sure there is a rich history to this almost mysterious star."

Richard Hearne was born in Norfolk in 1908, the son of Richard and Lily May.

Going on to get an OBE, Hearne appeared in several classically English films, including Passport to Pimlico, and Captain Horatio Hornblower. He made his last movie in 1956, the little-known Tons of Trouble with William Hartnell, who later became Dr Who.

Hearne went on to get his own series on the BBC in 1961 which ran for eight 25-minute episodes. Mr Pastry was typically British slapstick with cumbersome items such as skis on trains and a tuba that gets tangled in chairs.

The character was an old man with a walrus moustache, dressed in a black suit or raincoat and trademark bowler hat. Each week the bumbling man would have adventures, partly slapstick, partly comic dance, with two young friends. Jon Pertwee also appeared in a variety of roles – another future Dr Who.

Mr Pastry originated in the 1936 stage show Big Boy, in which Hearne appeared. A Mr Pastry film was subsequently made but portrayed the character as a pathetic figure coming out of prison and totally different from the TV series' bumbling comic.

He was also a regular on the Ed Sullivan Show from 1954. In 1963 Hearne became President of the Lord's Taverners charity.

He died in Bearsted, in 1979 aged 71, leaving a widow Yvonne and two children. He was buried in a churchyard in St Mary's Platt, near Borough Green.

He had lived at Platt Farm, a 15th century property in Long Mill Lane in the village, from the 1940s and from where he ran a market garden.

If you have any anecdotes about Mr Pastry, contact Michael Chandler at info@michaelrossfilmandtv.co.uk.

■ **Read more news and sport at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

News

HEALTH

Asbestos pay-out hope in face of shock death rates

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MEDWAY has Britain's second highest rate of asbestos-linked deaths, and the Government stands accused of dragging its feet to help victims while they are still alive.

But a High Court award of more than £50,000 to a former miner could pave the way to better settlements.

A company of compensation specialists used a freedom of information request to the UK's office of statistics, and the results make shocking reading.

Only Barrow has a higher death rate for its population with 8.4 dying per 100,000. While the national average is 2.5 deaths, Medway is almost three times that at 6.5.

Heavy industry and the docks helped contribute to the rise in cases of mesothelioma – a cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

Gravesham's death rate of 4.0 is 23rd, next are Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling,

SUFFERING: Mesothelioma rates are soaring in Medway

Sevenoaks and Thanet with 3.7; Shepway had 3.2; Dartford, 3.0 and Swale, 2.8. Canterbury is 139th on 2.6; Tunbridge has 2.2; Ashford, 2.0; and Dover is 278th with 1.7.

The figures were obtained by not-for-profit campaign group the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

Its president David Bott said: "More people die of mesothelioma in Medway per head of the population than in most other parts of the country.

"What is needed is for the Government to bring forward proposals for a fund which would act as a safety net for injured workers who are otherwise unable to pursue justice."

At the moment, claims are hard to prove and win because the initial cause of the illness could have happened decades ago. A company may have gone out of business, leaving no way of tracking down insurers or documents.

Now, Kent solicitors Furley Page has secured a legal breakthrough by helping to win £50,000 for Dennis Ball, 92, for his suffering after developing mesothelioma. This could set a precedent.

The recommended payout in the Judicial Studies Board Guidelines is £35,000.

The now defunct British Coal argued because Nottinghamshire miner Mr Ball was so old with a short life expectancy, his damages should be reduced. Mrs Justice Swift rejected this.

A Department of Work and Pensions spokesman said: "The DWP is working to resolve these issues."

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CRIME

£500 fine after 15 year old girl is given a tattoo

A TATTOO artist has been fined £500 plus costs after being found guilty of tattooing a 15-year-old girl. Don Carfoot of Don's Tattooing in Hereson Road, Ramsgate, pleaded not guilty, but was convicted under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 at Margate Magistrates Court. Police said this type of prosecution was "very rare" as most parents who find their child tattooed do not wish to pursue the case through the courts.

HEALTH

Super-size ambulance to carry obese patients

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS the population gets increasingly obese, Kent ambulance service has been forced to buy an outsized vehicle to cater for its ever-growing patients.

The South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust said it is taking delivery of three so-called 'bariatric ambulances' and specialist equipment – one will be based at Paddock Wood, and the others in Sussex and Surrey.

The bill for taxpayers is £400,000 for all three.

Bariatrics is the branch of medicine that deals with the causes, prevention, and treatment of obesity.

The vehicles are designed to transport patients weighing up to 50 stone and are based on the current DMA Mercedes model, produced through Irish supplier, Wilker.

Certain modifications have been specially made in this new breed of emergency vehicle, the company said.

Based in Clara, County Offaly, the firm said it had a wider tail lift, central stretcher location, with 360 degree access, central attendant seat for airways management and the ability to store to the side when transporting patients in their own wheelchair, or the new C Max stair-climber chair.

BIG DEAL: A bariatric ambulance, designed to carry patients weighing up to 50 stone, is to be based at Paddock Wood

SECAmb's head of fleet, Justin Wand, added: "The new vehicles and equipment will provide the Trust with a specialist ability to care for these patients who have specific needs."

The design of the vehicle was finalised with contributions from health and safety and the bariatric working group.

Specialist manual handling aids and equipment include a Megasus stretcher, gantry and mobile hoists, threshold ramps and enhanced air cushion lifting equipment in addition to the stair-climber chair.

The Kent vehicle will be based at what is known as a 'make ready centre' and will be used for slimmer patients, too.

SECAmb operations director James Pavey said: "These vehicles can be used for any patient, from the outside you wouldn't notice them to look much different from the average ambulance."

He said moving a large patient is not usually a dignified procedure and the bariatric ambulances will make things easier.

Mr Pavey added: "We will probably need to increase the size of the fleet to meet the demand, but this is the first step."

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

PEDAL POWER: Stephen and Shirley Channing's book offers a variety of routes for hikers and cyclists

Journey around Kent – with a Victorian cyclist

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW work of travel literature called A Victorian Cyclist offers a rare and insightful look into the Kentish countryside in 1886, from the perspective of two wheels.

The third book from Thanet-based historian Stephen Channing and his wife Shirley, A Victorian Cyclist includes several different rambles, each beginning in the seaside town of Margate.

The continuing fascination for the Victorian era and its view of Britain has become even more apparent in recent years with TV series such as Michael Portillo's travelling on the railways using his 19th century Bradshaw's Guide to the landscape, town and villages.

There are also a great number of smaller roads across Kent which wind through countryside largely unchanged from the landscape of the time.

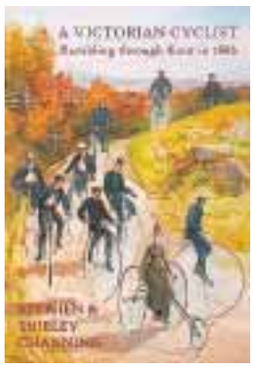
The book takes the reader through nearly 500 miles of Kent countryside, and explores a variety of routes that are ideal for the hiker and cyclist alike.

"From the saddle there is so much to see," said Shirley.

"Kent is a fantastic place and although I've lived here all my life, while researching the book and travelling the routes I went to places I'd never been before.

"As well as the beautiful landscapes there is the history and the people we encountered."

Providing detailed historical insight, the narrative offers a comprehensive account of the



experiences and discoveries of a Victorian cyclist. This allows the reader to learn more about the landscape and ecology of the Victorian age, and discover how routes and paths have changed and developed over the years.

Past heroes, characters, and famous residents from the secluded villages and hamlets of the time are brought to life throughout the multiple journeys.

Additional extracts are drawn from contemporary media, putting the Victorian cyclist's exploits in context and drawing on changing attitudes to give a flavour of the age.

Conventional attitudes to women's position in society, the state of the roads and bike design are all covered, including a section on 'The Art of Velocipede Management'.

More than 200 photos and illustrations (most of which are around a 100-years-old) complete the reader's experience.

Stephen said: "When I discovered the first article written by the Victorian cyclist I was struck by the diverse content and attention to detail.

"After further research, I was astounded to find page after page of rambles covering the Kentish countryside, each as comprehensive as the first.

"I know readers will enjoy reading about the experiences, people, scenery, villages, buildings, flora and fauna which were so enjoyed by our cyclist in 1886. I wanted to offer historians, genealogists, ecologists et al, the opportunity to discover Kent as it was in Victorian days, from the pen of an articulate and knowledgeable member of society."

A Victorian Cyclist comes complete with sections from a contemporary copy of an Ordnance Survey Map for Canterbury and east Kent, showing the road system as it was in our cyclist's time.

Modern directions are provided, alongside illustrations and details about some of the history en route to allow the reader to rediscover these tracks through the eyes of both the modern and the Victorian explorer.

The publisher says the book is one which will interest historians, naturalists and geographers as well as those with a passion for cycling.

An associated website www.victoriancyclist.com is also now up and running.

The book is available from Ozaru Books online and from retailers, including WH Smith and Waterstones.

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OPINION

It's criminal to cut Legal Aid

Legal Aid and advice are vital services for those in need, says Andy Ball, of Advice Partnership for East Kent, ahead of cuts to the service

MOST of us think the fire service should be funded, even though our houses are not currently on fire.

Likewise the current NHS reforms are debated by people who are well, but think they might be sick in the future.

But there is another 'emergency service' that is also under threat: advice, much of it provided by the voluntary sector.

The Government's Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is currently going through Parliament, and it will drastically reduce the specialist advice available in Kent.

As the Government cuts spending, Legal Aid, specialist legal advice and representation, has come under scrutiny.

It costs a lot – £2 billion a year. But most of that doesn't go to 'fat cat lawyers', despite what some people will tell you.

The average Legal Aid lawyer's salary is £25,000. And the £350 million the Government wants to cut from Legal Aid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable; the Ministry of Justice says so.

Legal Aid comes in two parts.

Criminal Legal Aid provides the solicitors who attend police stations and the barristers who represent people charged with crime.

And it's here where eye-watering amounts of money come into play; 10 top lawyers received more than £500,000 each from Legal Aid in 2010, and some cases cost millions.

But even though criminal cases make up 55 per cent of the Legal Aid budget, they will only suffer 20 per cent of Government cuts.

Contrast this with Civil Legal Aid; advice and representation that deals with more everyday matters such as housing, debt, welfare benefits and family matters.

Apart from family law, much of this is provided by charities: Citizens Advice Bureaux, Shelter, and independent advice agencies. Why? Because it's not profitable for the private sector.

Charities struggle to break even on their Legal Aid work, despite many of the caseworkers being paid less than the average UK salary. More church mouse than fat cat.

But it is this part of Legal Aid that is taking the big hit.

Civil Legal Aid makes up 45 per cent of the Legal Aid budget, but will suffer 80 per cent of the cuts.

And according to recent research, at least 58 per cent of those savings will be lost due to increased costs for other Government departments.

Whole areas of advice will be lost. Welfare benefits, employment, much advice about debt and housing – all will lose Legal Aid funding. An estimated 6,500 specialist legal cases will be axed in Kent.

Legal Aid is a means to an end, and good quality advice needs funding

These are problems that many of us will face in life, often when we least expect it, and caused by things like redundancy, divorce, or illness.

Who will pick up the pieces? The voluntary sector will suffer from the Legal Aid cuts, and is already facing real-term cuts in council funding.

We're all subject to the law, and sometimes we have to deal with legal issues when we're least able to cope.

It's vital we have access to quality advice, and it's often more efficient for the taxpayer. Research from Citizens Advice says that £1 spent on the right advice at the right time can save £8 of Government spending.

Legal Aid is just a means to an end. By all means, reform it or replace it. But good quality advice needs proper funding. If you agree, tell your MP.

You can find out more from a national campaign, www.justice-for-all.org.uk.

KOS COMMENT

Children not cost must be made the priority

LOOKED-after children being dumped in Kent by other councils is an ongoing problem.

But despite pressure by KCC, nothing seems to be done. While there are some cases where children need to be away from their home town, it's doubtful that all 1,340 youngsters in KCC's care had to be moved here.

And it's important to remember the impact this can have on a vulnerable child – taken away from friends, family and familiarity. But it's just as vital to think of the vulnerable children from Kent who could miss out on support due to the increasing strain on services.

Kent may be a quick and cheap option for other councils, but it's the children who could suffer.

Best of British grub

IT'S great to hear a Kent chippy has stolen the nation's heart to best voted the UK's best. And with some of the loveliest beaches on the British coastline in Kent, it's only right we have a fish and chip shop to match. Nothing beats a cod and chips by the sea and now you won't have to go too far to get the best there is.

Clowes Wood, near Whitstable by Ken Hall

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Lay blame at Carroll's door

THE review of Peter Carroll's book about Gurkhas (February 19) gives an insight into his and Joanna Lumley's campaign to secure rights for Nepalese soldiers, but fails to reveal the real reason why he found it politically expedient to do so.

In 2000, he became the Lib Dem candidate for the Conservative-held Folkestone and Hythe constituency and in typical opportunistic-style decided to take up Nepalese soldiers resentment that they did not have the same rights of residence and less pension rights than the rest of the British Army, as a means of shaming MP Michael Howard who had hitherto supported the traditional line that Nepalese soldiers must be resettled as Nepali citizens.

In 2004, Labour granted residency rights to the families of all Gurkhas who had served since 1997, but not those with earlier service.

In 2009, by persuading the Government to allow all retired Gurkhas to settle here, the pair's success turned out to be short-lived by virtue of its unintended consequence.

Last month, the Coalition announced that one in eight Gurkhas were to be made redundant. Former defence chief Lord Bramall had warned the Gurkha campaign "could kill the golden goose for later generations" and General Sir Mike Jackson declared the outcome "was the direct result of the campaign spearheaded by Joanna Lumley".

With Mr Carroll busy promoting his book, I will not hold my breath in anticipation of him or Ms Lumley offering an apology anytime soon.

John Stockham, Folkestone

MPs must act over drought

EMPTY rivers and the prospect of drought and standpipes can all be avoided if our representatives can influence decision-makers to sponsor a national water grid – distributing abundant water in the north, to us here in the south where it is desparately needed.

It could be done utilising much of our existing canal system, to the benefit of all, including fish and wildlife.

Politicians at all levels should recognise the dangers of drought this summer and represent households and farmers by making sure effective plans are in place, with the bonus that a water grid would produce many shovel-ready jobs and protect the Garden of England.

Edward La Coste, Lamberhurst

Send it down from on high

IT WAS interesting to read the headline "Praying for rain as water companies say 'prepare for drought'" on the cover of last week's edition because we were doing exactly that at our midweek church meeting in Gillingham.

We asked God to bring the rain because He is able to change the weather. The Bible says in Deuteronomy Chapter 11, verses 13-17 if we turn to God, He will send the rain in its right season (the water companies have already mentioned the need for the right season).

I would therefore suggest next Sunday we all go to Church and earnestly pray to God that He sends the rain.

Steve Noyce, Gillingham

Jump aboard London trains

I WAS surprised to discover that Dartford's Tory MP Gareth Johnson is so bitterly opposed to plans to include Dartford in some way within London's transport network (February 17).

He should think again...

Moves in this direction, of course, aren't new. Before 2010's general election, Dartford's former Labour MP Howard Stoate led a popular campaign to have Transport for London's (TfL) Oyster card scheme extended to Dartford.

And there are big advantages. Being able to swipe an Oyster card at Dartford station – something Dartfordians using nearby Crayford station can already do – will help tackle ticket queues.

Moreover, if Dartford's involvement was negotiated cleverly it could even cut fares – good news, potentially, for hard-pressed commuters.

True, this latest proposal looks bigger in scope than Dr Stoate's scheme and accountability is a factor.

TfL answers to London's mayor and Darfordians have no vote in mayoral elections. But negotiating a structure that represents local residents over the fairly narrow matter of train services to and from London shouldn't be impossible.

Mr Johnson's chief concern – that a move by TfL into Dartford will somehow undermine the town's Kentish character – sounds odd.

Does he really believe that Dartford's deeply entrenched Kentish heritage hinges on nothing more substantial than the technicalities of train service management?

Ultimately, this issue must be decided on more rational grounds. And, if there's a proposal that reduces queues, boosts efficiency and even cuts fares – whilst tackling accountability concerns – then it deserves serious consideration.

John Adams, councillor for Stone and former Labour parliamentary candidate for Dartford

Councils are not the ticket

WHAT short-sighted thinking of councils to raise parking fees.

Our high streets are already being starved of trade, mainly because people can park for free in most retail parks.

I remember when you could park in Northdown Road, Margate, for free and for as long as you liked. Parking restrictions were brought in and that was the start of its decline.

Increasing parking fees is no way to attract trade to our rundown towns. Please councils, think again before you add injury to injury.

Rex C Priggen, Westgate-on-Sea

Turning blind eye won't do

NO SURPRISES from Roy Duff.

If it's getting colder, it's global warming; if it's getting warmer, it's global warming.

These guys can only handle a win-win, situation (Letters February19).

No response to the reported weather cycles over hundreds of years. No response to any of the tangible, proveable and indisputable evidence from the past. Just more dodgy data that might suggest whatever these self-appointed 'experts' want it to suggest.

Even if global warming was a future issue, shortages of food, water and other resources, will arrive a lot sooner and be a lot more serious.

Why do these dogmatists turn a blind eye to the truth?

Phil Granger, West Malling

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CONTACT US...

IF you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on 01303 817181 or alternatively email nick.ames@archant.co.uk.

KEY PARTNERS

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This week we feature two businesses that are unique in their own way thanks to original thinking and an entrepreneurial spirit. Both based in Kent, they stretch their operations to two very different parts of the globe. Catch restaurants in Canterbury and Ashford use their own boat to gather fish in Norwegian waters, where tight regulations protect the environment. And fashion company CHK, based in Ashford, offers jobs, hope and self-respect to Bolivian women who might otherwise be living in poverty. In hard times it can be forgotten that business not only benefits the economy by generating cash – it can also help disadvantaged people and the natural world.

The fishy idea that might catch on

TWO fish-and-chips restaurants in Kent have a very special method of getting their main dishes – their cod and haddock are caught by their own boat.

Granite IV operates out of the Norwegian port of Ålesund and fishes the northern reaches of the North Sea, which rounds the North Cape of the country, and the Barents Sea, which laps the shores of Russia.

'Caught and cooked by us' is the slogan of the firm that runs the Catch restaurants in Ashford and Canterbury.

"I don't know anyone else who operates this way," said Graham Hollinshead, who founded the business. "When I set out, quality was my aim, so, rather than going to a third party for funding and backing, I went to the people who really know what fishing is about – those who do the work."

His company reached agreement with the operators of the 67-metre-long trawler and its captain, Ola Inge Gronnevet, who recently visited Canterbury and lunched on the fish he had caught.

The Norwegian fishing fleet is subject to rigorous regulations designed to protect stocks, with boats boarded for inspections and helicopters used for surveillance. Nets are checked frequently and quotas sent via satellite link to the authorities.

The measures have seen stocks rise to a level not seen since the 1940s as Norway's Fiske Forever (Fish Forever) campaign seeks to preserve one of the country's most important industries.

The ship spends about four weeks at sea on any one trip and can operate in gale-force winds and 40ft sea swells. The fish are gutted and their heads removed before they are filleted and frozen at a temperature of -30ºC.

The catch is then shipped to England, defrosted and served amid colourful surroundings, with posters, newspapers and even a shark as decorations.

Hollinshead said: "We want to make our customers smile, so you will find a little humour here and there in our restaurants. We take our food and what we do seriously, but we try not to take ourselves too seriously.

"Ultimately, nothing beats seeing happy customers once they have tasted and enjoyed our food.

"Our fish is top-quality, as you'd expect from a company with its own boats fishing clear Arctic waters. Fish for the shops is caught and delivered every few days to guarantee freshness.

"It has full Marine Stewardship Council approval, which means our stocks are well managed and sustainable.

"These are two of our most important priorities. We don't grow our own potatoes yet – they're from good farms in the Fens and arrive in their natural state for us to peel and chip at the shop each day. We cook with rapeseed oil as it's one of the healthiest oils to use."

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY: Graham Hollinshead runs Catch

Latin style that's knitted to conscience

AN international business showcasing the work of rural Bolivian women and taking it to stylish boutiques across Europe has become a success story for entrepreneur Carolina Reinhardt.

A native of the landlocked country in South America, Reinhardt runs her business from her Ashford home.

Boutiques in Tenterden, Cranbrook and Hawkhurst are the latest to stock her unique designs, handmade from the coat of the alpaca.

The knitwear, which includes jumpers, dresses and shawls, have also proven popular when sold in outlets in Cologne, Bonn and Zurich.

This summer her work will be displayed in London as the fashion industry shows off its new designs.

"I was born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, but left when I was 17 to study fashion, first in Argentina, before moving to Virginia, USA," she said.

"I then lived in Europe before coming to England and establishing my business."

CREATIONS: Carolina Reinhardt's business uses alpaca wool from Bolivia to make designer clothing

At her home, Reinhardt, director of CHK Fashion, designs her range, focusing on modern styling, shapes and colours.

Then, once or twice a year, she goes back to her home country and employs women from rural communities to make them.

"In Bolivia it is very common for women to be the victims of domestic violence, or to have their husbands leave them," Reinhardt said.

"These women have no real prospects – so I wanted to change things.

"My aim has been to create sustainable employment, provide fair wages, respect labour laws and provide an adequate return and living conditions for these skilled craftswomen.

"I intend to make a difference by bringing some people out of poverty."

Alpacas – which resemble small llamas – are kept in herds that graze on the level heights of the Andes in the north of Bolivia at an altitude of 3,500-5,000 metres.

Unlike the larger and stronger llamas, they are not bred to be beasts of burden but instead are reared specifically for their wool.

Alpaca fibre is used for making knitted and woven items such blankets, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, a wide variety of textiles and ponchos in South America, and sweaters, socks, coats and bedding in other parts of the world.

The fibre comes in more than 52 natural colours.

About 250 women work on Reinhardt's project, some crocheting, some knitting and some using hand-looms.

Reinhardt said: "I am trying to give people a measure of self-respect as well as employment.

"Some of these women may not be able to read or write, but they are incredibly talented with their hands.

"I want to prove to the world that there is a lot of potential in Bolivia."

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AWARDS

Recognition is a great deal

CASTLE Corporate Finance has walked away with a hat-trick of awards at Insider's South East Dealmakers Awards 2012.

It was the culmination of an eventful day for Castle, with the team closing a significant business sale earlier that same day.

The Tonbridge firm says staff thoroughly enjoyed their evening at Copthorne Effingham Park near Gatwick, with director Mike Norrie winning the Corporate Finance Adviser Of The Year title and the principal award, Dealmaker Of The Year, presented by Gyles Brandreth.

Norrie, who launched Castle Corporate Finance with Colin Harvey in 2008, was praised at the ceremony as a "real mainstay of the market".

"We were extremely proud to win these high-profile awards," he said. "Last year was busy for us and this one has started well. We work very closely with business-owners, guiding them through what is always an emotional process, helping them to achieve the best outcome for them and their company."

The team was also named lead adviser on the Deal Of The Year, the £18 million sale of Sidcup energy procurement and carbon strategy consultancy Power Efficiency to Balfour Beatty.

"I am proud Power Efficiency is a Castle Corporate Finance deal," said Norrie. "The shareholders are great and thoroughly deserve the award."

Search engine optimisation in a nutshell

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IF YOU are a business-owner or handle your company's marketing, you are likely to have heard about and deleted numerous emails pertaining to search engine optimisation (SEO).

These are likely to have been from agencies informing you of how they have 'visited your website and noticed that you are not listed in the major search engines and directories', before offering you 'guaranteed top positions', along with a '500 per cent increase in traffic'.

These emails are often a pest to business-owners, but they're also a hindrance to those in the industry. They give SEO-providers a bad reputation and, rather than demystifying the process or demonstrating its importance, serve only to create hostility and apathy toward search engine optimisation.

In recent years SEO has been referred to most commonly as 'a dark art'. This does not accurately describe the process. It can be argued, though, that it is an art: the basic principles are straightforward, but it takes skill and practice to achieve great results.

Search engine optimisation is the process of increasing traffic and enquiries through a website by enhancing your search results in search engines. Search results matter; when your pages have higher rankings, more people can find you.

The use of search engines such as Google is the second most popular online activity (behind only Facebook) and, with the number of internet-users in the UK at more than 51 million, getting your website found is important.

SEO improves the odds of someone finding your company online.

Search engines account for every word on the internet. When someone searches in Google, it narrows results to pages that are only about those words searched for.

So how does SEO get your site to appear high up among those results?

The first step is to know your customers. More specifically, know your potential customers, who they are, what they are looking for and which phrases they could be typing in to Google to find you. With this knowledge, you can identify around which key phrases your website will need to be optimised.

It is important to find the right key phrases – those that will not only spotlight your site in Google searches but that will also drive visitors.

For example, it is all well and good to rank for 'dog grooming in Folkestone', but if nobody is searching for that phrase it's not going to be sending any visitors or shaggy-haired dog-owners your way.

Once you have selected the phrases that will drive traffic and enquiries to your website, on-page optimisation is the next stage of the SEO process, ensuring your site contains these phrases in all the right ways and places.

This means that the phrases are contained in the right amounts – not too much or too little.

You need to implement your phrases in the page copy, check the titles of the pages are appropriate and that you're making full use of images and videos.

In addition, your navigation needs to be easy for both search engines and users to follow and – most importantly – make sure that your site's page code shows all of this.

Once your website itself is optimised, SEO looks at who is linking to your site.

Links to your website matter. More precisely, links from quality, relevant websites to yours matter. It is a recommendation and also a way of pointing out to users and search engines that your site has good information related to your carefully-selected key phrases.

Search engines can detect how many links a site has and tell which of these are relevant. It will give more weight to those from trustworthy and related sites.

Effective SEOs will ensure your site gains links from trustworthy, relevant sites and that those links will be based on your keyphrases rather than your company name.

SEO is fundamental to a successful online marketing campaign.

Accordingly, to really see lasting results from SEO it is important to turn to the experts – not those companies that plague your inbox with extravagant claims but one that fully understands SEO and takes the time to get to know both your business and its customers.

■ MCM Net will be hosting a free SEO seminar in Tunbridge Wells in March. To book your place or for details, email laj@mcmnet.co.uk.

RELAX: Search engine optimisation isn't as difficult as you might have thought

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Helen's Quantum leap into PR

ASHFORD public-relations agency Quantum PR has appointed Helen Bell as its new senior account manager.

Bell, 30, who lives in Ashford, joins Quantum from her previous role as communications executive for Laing O'Rourke.

She has also worked as press and PR officer for the BBC, dealing with external publicity for the South and South East region.

Previously she worked in the press office at Kent Police for some four years, handling media enquiries and crisis communications.

After studying for her A-levels in English and media at Canterbury College, Bell embarked on a career in radio, progressing from travel reporter to news editor at stations throughout Kent while gaining journalism training.

NEW FACE: Helen Bell

She said: "Joining Quantum is a fantastic opportunity for me and I'm delighted to be part of the team. I'm looking forward to combining my skills and experience with the expertise of this dynamic agency."

Quantum PR is an independent communications agency with renowned expertise in waste-management, recycling, energy, education and regeneration.

The agency provides a full range of public relations, marketing, graphic design, advertising and e-communication services to clients throughout the UK and Eire.

Quantum PR managing director Charlie Vavasour said: "Helen's background and experience makes her a perfect fit for Quantum and I'm sure she will make a major contribution to our expansion over the coming months."

JOB SEARCH

Get your CV printed... for free

GET your CV Sorted thanks to a national campaign.

In a bid to help Kent's job-seekers find employment, the Cartridge World stores in Canterbury, Maidstone, Strood, Chatham and Sittingbourne are taking part in the national CV Sorted campaign and are offering to print up to 10 copies of each customer's CV free of charge until Saturday, March 31.

With UK unemployment figures totalling more than 2.6 million and experts predicting this will hit almost three million by 2016, Cartridge World has launched the campaign to help people find work.

Colin Harms, of Cartridge World in Canterbury, said: "We recognise that the job market is tough, with fierce competition for most vacancies and that people looking for work need all the help they can get, which is why we're offering our customers this free service.

HELPING HAND: Colin Harms, of Cartridge World in Canterbury

"Residents have been overwhelmingly receptive to the campaign so far.

"We're encouraging customers to come in store and take advantage of this free service. Simply bring your CV to any of the stores and we will happily print it for free."

John Richardson, UK chairman for Cartridge World, said: "Unemployment is a crucial problem facing our economy today and printing CVs is one small way we can use our resources to help those who need it.

"A good CV can make you stand out from the crowd and ensure your job application moves to the top of the pile."

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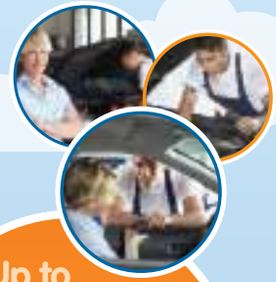

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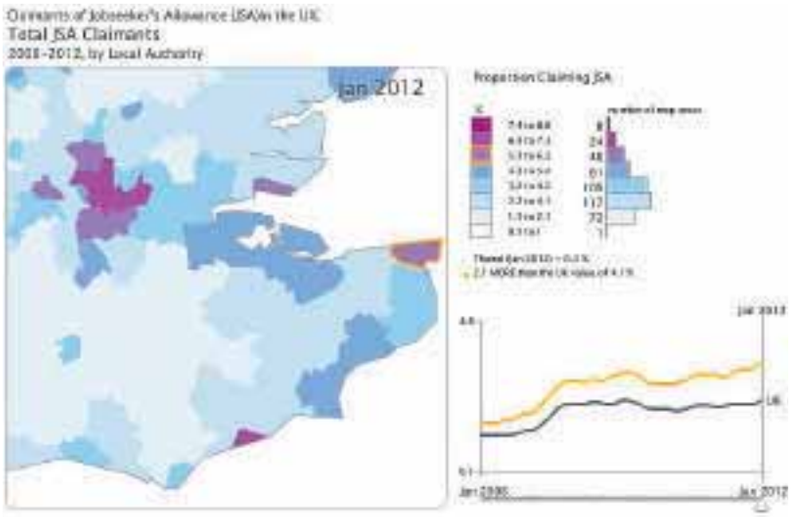
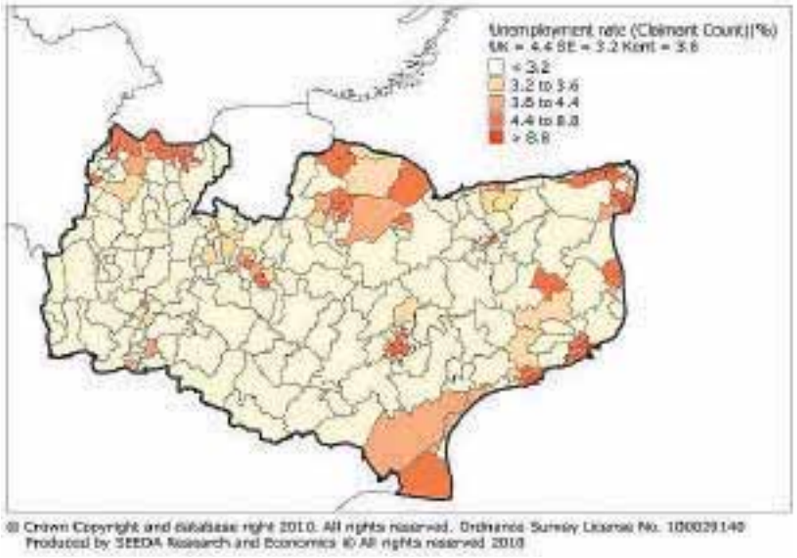




TRAINING

Take on an apprentice... it matters

THANET COLLEGE has thrown down the gauntlet, inviting all businesses in the area to take on an apprentice this year.

During National Apprenticeship Week, Thanet College laid down the challenge in an attempt to tackle the continued rise in unemployment, which has led to Thanet having the highest rate of youth unemployment in the South East.

The numbers of young people who are now unemployed have reached the million mark nationally – the highest rate in 20 years – and there is no sign that things are about to get better.

One way in which local businesses can take on a young person is through an apprenticeship. This is where the employer gains someone bespoke to their needs and in a cost-effective way (limited to a commitment of one year in many cases) and the employee gains on-the-job training, vital job-specific skills and qualifications that are crucial to career progression.

Apprenticeships can bring increased productivity and develop a workforce needed both now and into the future, bringing fresh talent and new thinking and filling skill gaps. Thanet College's business division, Training Solutions, offers assistance in achieving this.

David Foley, chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, says that Training Solutions is making taking on an apprentice easier than ever. He said: "Nine out of 10 companies in Thanet have fewer than 20 workers.

"In the past, these firms may have dismissed the opportunity to take on an apprentice as being too cumbersome, time-consuming or simply too much like hard work.

"With the procedures being outlined by organisations such as Training Solutions, the administrative burden is significantly reduced so that even quite small enterprises can see an immediate benefit.

"We urge all companies in Thanet to consider the new apprenticeship schemes and so discover how their operations, margins and future prospects can be improved with the addition of an on-site apprentice."

Kirsty Bryant, Head of Training Solutions, is passionate about her organisation's ability to help improve things for Thanet and east Kent.

She said: "There is a growing consensus that without further action we risk creating a 'lost generation' of young people in this country.

"Obviously the situation is multiplied in this region due to higher rates of youth unemployment than average.

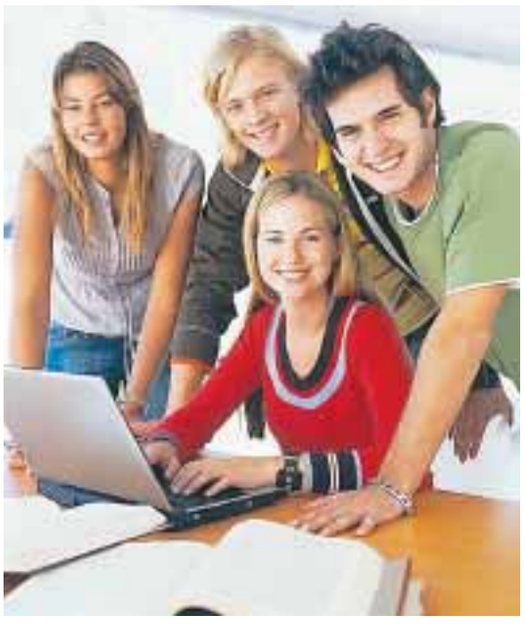
"These people will be shut out of the labour market and increasingly disconnected from the world of work or learning – this will, over time, have an impact on local skills levels, which in turn will have a knock-on effect on the success of existing business as well as our ability to attract new employers to the area.

"Should this situation occur, it would limit employment opportunities more generally and ultimately reduce people's quality of life and environment, which has far-reaching and long-lasting implications and will impact on every man, women and child living in this area – it's as serious as that.

"I urge all businesses in Thanet, big and small, to give Training Solutions a call.

"Even if you don't think an apprentice is for you, or you don't think you can afford one at the moment, there are so many Government grants and incentives available at present and I am confident we can help find a solution to benefit your business and thus subsequently help support our local economy."

■ **Phone 01843 821580 or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk for more facts about apprenticeships.**



EXPERIENCE: Apprenticeships can help our young people to learn

Training, courses and careers

Company trains future managers

MOVE management firm Sargents has launched an apprentices programme developed with employability and skills provider Skills Training UK.

The company, based on the Fordgate Business Park in Thamesmead, and owned by Restore plc, provides move management and storage services in London and the South East.

Managing director Mark Rousell said: "At Sargents, we are always striving to do better and so the continuous professional development of our staff is a major priority.

"I am delighted that we have developed our apprenticeships programme which will help us ensure all our staff have the skills and the discipline we need to provide our customers with truly excellent service."

The team-leading apprenticeship programme will help ensure a pipeline of employees who have developed the specific skills required for supervisory roles in the business. The apprenticeship includes areas like time management; communication; handling paperwork and problem solving.

Currently nine staff members are working towards National Vocational Qualifications at Level 2 in Team Leading, with a further 12 staff enrolling on the programme throughout February.

Plumbers clean up at ceremony

APPRENTICE plumbers studying at MidKent College have been recognised as being among the best craftsmen in the country.

Richard Pettitt, 42, from Rochester, and Paul Hopper, 23, from Swanscombe, were honoured as part of the apprentice, journeyman and master certificate scheme at a special ceremony.

The annual event – held at Plaisterers' Hall, London – is organised by the Construction Liveries Group with the Livery Companies Skills Council, and City and Guilds.

Stuart Nice, MidKent College's head of construction and building services, said: "These two students are a credit to themselves, their employers and the college.

"These talented individuals have both demonstrated outstanding aptitude and ability, and have the potential to make a major contribution within the plumbing industry."

Paul and Richard are currently studying for their Level 3 NVQs in plumbing and heating.

Paul has more than five years' experience as a plumbing and heating engineer, while Richard works for Southern Water as a water regulations officer.

Success comes to those who wait, proves Amy

SHE started her working life waiting tables but after completing an apprenticeship she knew the right career was waiting for her.

Amy Nichols, 19, studied public services at college and worked as a waitress during evenings and weekends.

When her course finished, she had a decision to make. She found out about KEY Training Services and took up an apprenticeship within Kent County Council's special educational needs team.

Amy said: "Once college had finished, I continued to work as a waitress part time for a couple of months. I didn't feel that working in a restaurant was something I wanted to do as a career.

"I wanted to have a full-time job but at the same time I knew I needed to improve my skills and qualifications if I wanted to work in an office. Employers tend to want you to have experience as well as skills, so an apprenticeship is good for that – because it gives you that experience and gets a foot in the door.

"Following my apprenticeship, I was given the opportunity to take up a secondment for a team that I helped out during my time as an apprentice.

"I've managed to successfully secure a permanent job in KCC and am continuing to learn and enhance my skills.

"If it wasn't for the apprenticeship scheme, I might still be waitressing and on the same wage. I would like to work my way up at KCC and possibly consider undertaking further education alongside of my work."

Amy was one of several young people who collected certificates during National Apprenticeship Week to mark the end of their training.

Five Kent companies that offer apprenticeships – Bedfont Scientific, Kent Gateway Block Management, Kent Police Authority, Lewis Waterman, and Woodlands Day Centre – were also thanked for giving school-leavers opportunities to start out on the career ladder.

KCC deputy cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Gary Cooke, said: "I am grateful to all the employers that are offering apprenticeships. These days we are looking at some of the toughest economic conditions that have existed since the war.

"Young people have to make themselves as employable as they can. Employers that come forward and work with KCC and other providers to take on apprentices is absolutely fantastic and I cannot say enough to thank them all."

KEY Training Services has been established for 30 years and is a work-based training provider, providing training solutions to both companies and individuals across the county.

KEY Training Services works with more than 300 employers throughout Kent, delivering apprenticeships and National Vocational Qualifications, and has helped more than 25,000 people to realise their career ambitions.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

CAREER AMBITIONS: An apprenticeship saved Amy Nichols from waiting on tables

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Rotary members help get students ready to join the world of working

THANET Rotarians are helping Marlowe Academy students to hone their job interview skills and to perfect their CVs.

Members of the Rotary Club of Thanet used to run mock interviews but have now turned their attention to a more targeted mentoring scheme which helps to boost the students' confidence.

Some 20 students have benefited from the scheme so far, including work experience placements and advice.

One student interested in politics was given guidance by a Rotarian and Kent county councillor. Another student who wished to join the police has had meetings with serving police officers.

The new-style mentoring scheme was introduced by Thanet Rotarian, Michael Studham. He said: "I have done this mentoring within the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and it struck me that it would be better to have something on-going and less stressful for students than mock interviews."

Recently, The Marlowe Academy thanked the Rotary Club by giving members a dinner in their honour and staging a production showcasing the work of all ages of the Academy's performing art students in drama, music and dance.

The Rotarians insisted on paying for their meal and the money was donated to on-site radio station, Academy FM.

Industry gives backing for UCA Creative Challenge programme

DESIGNER: Kane O'Flaherty gets his award

THE University for the Creative Arts has gathered together an array of creative industry leaders and experts to find the most innovative student in the South East as part of the Creative Challenge programme.

Uwe Derksen, Director of Research + Enterprise at UCA, said: "The Creative Challenge is our annual industry-led programme that helps our most talented students develop their creative business and innovation skills; applied in the context of real world complex demands.

"The Creative Challenge culminates in a competition to find the most enterprising and innovative students at the university. Expert business people will nurture students with brilliant ideas through a development programme. The programme is designed to identify 10 finalists in May."

The competition is open to all students at the University for the Creative Arts. The top 50 finalists have just been announced and are from all five campuses across UCA. Ideas are top secret and range in theme and discipline. All 50 students will now benefit from this exciting industry-led programme.

Last year's winner Kane O'Flaherty said: "The Creative Challenge pushed my creative flair, enhanced my technical skills and increased my self-confidence... I found myself as a designer."

Past supporters have included industry leaders Karen Millen, Wayne Hemmingway, Sony and Kia UK, and this year the competition is being supported by more than 30 businesses including Virgin Media, Sony Computer Entertainment, and Kanoti.

Also new this year is the support of Creative Barcode, which has provided each of the top 50 students with an account so all their work and ideas over the coming year will be protected.

Science project takes four pupils all the way to the big bang finals

CHAUCER Technology School pupils are top of the class after winning a place in the finals of the 2012 National Science and Engineering Competition.

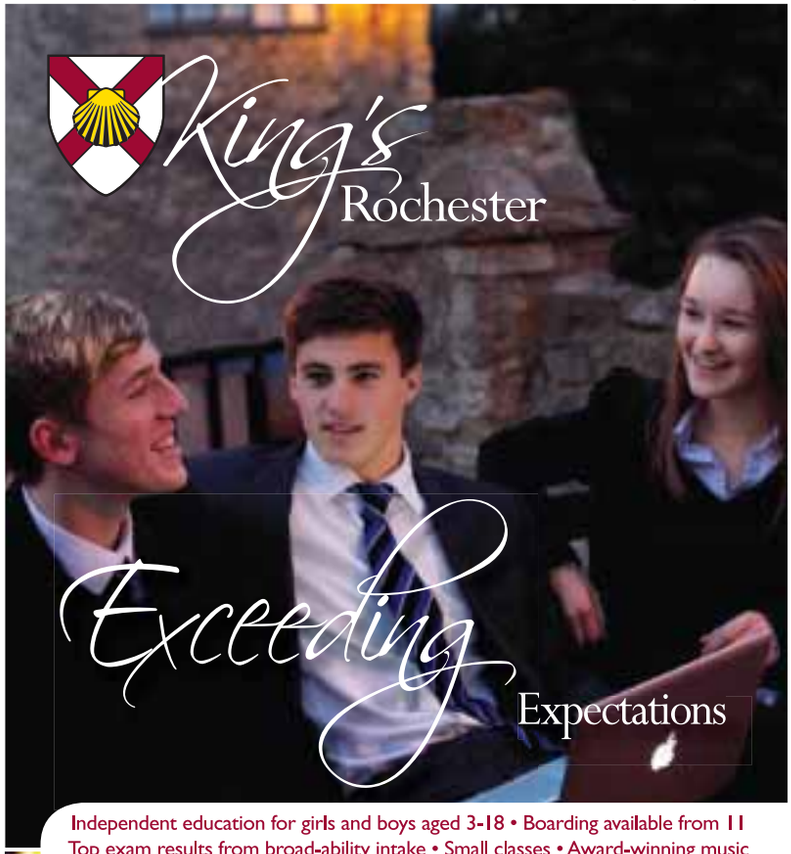
Philip Clark, Libbie Norton, Chantelle Martin and Daniel Keen impressed judges by setting themselves the task of reducing the school carbon dioxide output by 10 per cent.

They will now go head to head with students from across the country in an attempt to claim one of the UK's most prestigious science and engineering honours for young people.

Philip, Libbie, Chantelle and Daniel's shortlisted entry will be presented to more than 30,000 people at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair, the country's single biggest celebration of science and engineering for young people, held at the NEC, Birmingham from March 15-17.

The world-class judging panel includes renowned space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Nobel Prize winning biochemist Sir Tim Hunt, and the Science Museum's inventor in residence Mark Champkins, among others.

The pupils said: "We so proud that our project has made it into the finals of the National Science and Engineering Competition. It really encouraged us to think about science and engineering in a new light and helped us to realise what fun wecould have."



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www.holmesdale.kent.sch.uk

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Wayfield Children's Centre

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The Wayfield Centre

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Wayfield Community

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Headteacher - Mrs V Rose

EMPLOYMENT

Clegg pledges millions to help 'neets'

DEPUTY Prime Minister Nick Clegg has promised to deal with the "ticking timebomb" of teenagers who are not in work, school or training with a massive cash injection.

On Tuesday he announced a £126 million scheme to get 16- and 17-year-olds back into employment or education.

The initiative is part of the Government's Youth Contract scheme announced last November, which is aimed at tackling unemployment among young people.

But business representatives say that for the scheme to work commitment and the right attitude need to be shown by the young people taking part – otherwise their worth to companies is negligable,

Under the scheme, charities and businesses will be invited to bid for contracts worth up to £2,200 to take on teenagers and will receive an initial payment up front, followed by more money when the youngsters show progress. At least 55,000 so-called 'neets' – not in education, employment or training – who have no GCSEs at grade C or above are expected to benefit.

Mr Clegg said: "Sitting at home with nothing to do when you're so young can knock the stuffing out of you for years. It is a tragedy for the young people involved – a ticking timebomb for the economy and our society as a whole.

"This problem isn't new, but in the current economic climate we urgently need to step up efforts to ensure some of our most troubled teenagers have the skills, confidence and opportunities to succeed."

The news has been welcomed by Kent's business community, but the Federation of Small Businesses emphasised that the young people themselves had to demonstrate the right attitude when it came to the workplace.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Employers need enthusiastic young people, ready to work. The right attitude and work ethic are essential and under the Youth Contract young people will be able to demonstrate their value in the workplace and to the business.

"Schools provide students with knowledge and skills. However, businesses rank attitude as very important: interpersonal communication, team-working, punctuality and self-discipline. Sadly, these qualities are absent in some youngsters."

"To assist schools to better prepare their students for employment the FSB in Kent is backing Young Enterprise, encouraging participation in its Company Programme, which will provide insight into the world of business, commerce and entrepreneurship."

INVESTMENT: The scheme aims to get more of our young people working

This age group has been singled out because evidence suggests that unemployment early on in a person's working life can have a permanent effect on earning potential.

Statistically, at age 42, someone who has been frequently unemployed as a teenager is likely to earn up to 15 per cent less than his of her peers, the Department for Education said.

The announcement comes after the latest unemployment figures showed that the numbers of 16- to 24-year-olds not in work increased by 22,000 to 1.04 million in the three months to December. Figures for the third quarter of last year, showed that more than a million 16- to 24-year-olds, or 1,163,000 – almost one in five, were considered to be neets.

Mr Clegg said: "Many of them will have complex problems... truancy, teenage pregnancy, a lack of GCSEs and health problems.

"Helping them on their feet will not be without challenges and Government cannot do this alone. But we all have a duty to reach out to the young people who can be hardest to reach.

"That's why today I am calling on charities and other organisations at the coalface to work with Government to help tens and thousands of lost teenagers on to a brighter path."

The scheme will give businesses complete freedom in how they provide their support.

Tim Loughton, Children and Young People's Minister, said: "Providers know how best to support young people back into education training and employment. We are looking forward to receiving some innovative ideas that really work from experienced organisations in all sectors."

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to join our Sevenoaks Office. This is a full time position and is primarily office based.

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Contact: **Steve Richmond on 07710 145802 or 01732 740088**
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To advertise in this section
01303 817040

LSC Debt Advice Caseworker

Hours: 37.5 hours per week

Location: Medway

Salary: Up to £21,000 per annum depending on experience

Is salary pro rata? No

Type of contract: Fixed term

Medway Citizens Advice Bureau is seeking a well organised, enthusiastic Caseworker to join our successful LSC Team. You will need to be a qualified LSC Money Advice Caseworker, able to deal with complex debt cases with the ability to manage your own workload, whilst being able to meet the projects challenging casework targets.

For application forms please contact:
Email: carmen@cabmedwayadvice.org.uk
Telephone no: 01634 383760
Address: Kingsley House, 37-39 Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4PF
Closing date: 7th March 2012
Closing time: 5:00pm
Interview date: Week beginning 12th March 2012

Childcare Co-ordinator (Job Ref: EDS/668)
Grade: B1 - Salary: £22,958 - £30,851 per annum
Hours: Full time
Location: Based at Blossoms Day Nursery
Wayfield Children's Centre
Wayfield Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 0HH

The governors are seeking to appoint a knowledgeable, motivational, enthusiastic and hard working person to manage their Day Nursery at Wayfield Children's Centre.

Blossoms Day Nursery is a 33 place nursery for children aged between 2 and 5 years old. The Nursery is open between the hours of 8:30am and 5pm for 52 weeks a year.

A new Childcare Co-ordinator is required to manage and co-ordinate the childcare provision and practices within the Children's Centre and to manage the staff team, volunteers and students involved in the nursery.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic nursery and Children's Centre Team and to further you career.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to visit the centre.

Our Children's Centre is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our children. All appointments will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure and satisfactory references.

For more information, or an application pack, please contact Sue Arnold on 01634 336350.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Closing Date: 9 March 2012

Start Date: As soon as possible

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The applicant should hold a current ATA VDA qualification.
You will need to demonstate a strong understanding of vehicle design and technology, and the body industry as a whole.
You must also hold a full clean driving licence.

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To apply please forward your CV by email.
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Joinery Estimator

Orlestone Oak currently have a vacancy for a Joinery Estimator. Applicants should have a proven track record.

Duties to include estimating doors, windows and staircases, also oak framed buildings.

Good rates of pay offered.

Contact Mr. G Ledger **glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk**

Showroom Demonstrator

- Location: Aylesford Maidstone
- Job Type: Part Time, Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4, Bank Holidays.
- Categories: customer service, demonstrator
- Closing Date: 12/03/2012

Description

SLIDEROBES® goal is to make its customers happy by helping them transform their space. Our products are value-for-money, expertly designed and tailor-made for our customers' needs. We work together to deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in the market for our customers.

We are seeking a Part time Showroom Demonstrator to join our Maidstone showroom team.

Role Responsibilities

The role involves:

- Being the first point of contact for customers when they visit or call the showroom.
- Identifying customer needs and demonstrating how SLIDEROBES® storage solutions can meet these, aiming to secure qualified homedesign appointments for the team of Designers.
- Working to the SLIDEROBES® standards to ensure that we deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in our market.

Essential Criteria

Personal profile:

- Previous experience in demonstrating or selling is desirable, but not essential. You will need to have a friendly, out-going personality and be genuinely interested in people.
- Naturally, good, all round communication skills are required.
- We have a strong team working ethos in our business so you will need to be an organised, focused team player, willing to go the extra mile to ensure the team achieves its goals.
- You will be confident in using basic IT (we will give you great training in how to use our systems).
- You will need to be flexible in your approach to work, willing and able to work weekends and Bank Holidays.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a growing business, who will invest time and money in your personal development to ensure you are fully equipped to help make our customers happy.

Interested? Forward your CV for immediate consideration to: Maidstone@Sliderobes.com marked for the attention of Paul Devlin or send by post to Unit 3cDeacon Trading Estate, Forstal Road, Aylesford ME20 7SP

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Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

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To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

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We are currently looking for…

TEACHING ASSISTANT

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.
Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am - 3.45pm), term time only.
Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred.
Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 9.3.12

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in ICT — *Ref: P0583*

Salary: £23,043 - £29,020 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway
Hourly Paid/Variable Hours positions also available

The College is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both industry knowledge of, and the ability to teach a range of subjects within our current range of BTEC IT qualifications up to Level 3. This might include: hardware, networking, programming, systems support, games design, animation or other discipline within our curriculum area. An effective team player, you will have excellent communication skills and eager to innovate, respond flexibly to industry demands and contribute to the development of the IT curriculum area. The successful candidate must have at least a level 3 qualification or equivalent in a Computing related subject with a Cert Ed/PGCE teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to required national standards. Recent experience of teaching young people up to Level 3 would be advantageous.

Events and Promotions Officer — *Ref: P0114*

Salary: £17,050 - £21,339 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are seeking a positive, creative and enthusiastic candidate to co-ordinate both internal and external promotional events including Open Evenings, Advice & Enrolment Sessions, and Staff and Student Awards Ceremonies. The successful candidate will have experience of organising and implementing large-scale events and promotional activities, along with excellent organisational and presentation skills. An understanding of post-16 education and training and a degree level qualification, preferably in Marketing and/or Events Management, is desirable.

Examinations Administrator — *Ref: T0156*

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Fixed Term Maternity Cover Medway

We are looking to appoint a confident individual to provide administration support for examinations in liaison with the Examinations Manager and to provide examination administrative support to academic faculties. The successful candidate will have Good organisational and administrative skills and have experience working within an office environment or a qualification equivalent.

Apprentice in Business Administration — *Ref: P0086*

Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Finance Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion.

Closing date: 12 noon, Wednesday 14 March 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

MidKent College

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME LEADER - WOOD TRADES

To deliver high quality teaching and learning, lead the effective co-ordination and development of programmes and take a lead role in the planning and delivery of specified programmes within the Programme Area.

Salary Scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 41 days holiday.

Interview date: Friday 16th March 2012

SKILLS PRACTITIONER (CONSTRUCTION)

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Salary Scale: £8,567 - £10,123 for 18.5 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata holiday.

Interview date: Tuesday 13th March 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PA TO THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

To provide the administrative support for the College's quality assurance processes and to collate and present information for quality assurance purposes.

To provide the Deputy Principal with a PA service as part of the executive officer team.

Salary Scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week, all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.

If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Monday 5th March 2012

Interview date: Monday 12th March 2012

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

WORK PLACEMENT OFFICER

To organise work placements, assess students and monitor attendance and progress on a range of early years work experience placements.

Salary Scale: £17,133 - £20,246 for 37 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days holiday.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 7th March 2012
Interview date: Tuesday 20th March 2012

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

KAFEC
KENT ASSOCIATION OF FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

The Kent Association of FE Colleges (KAFEC) is an innovative partnership of the six FE colleges based in Kent & Medway. Formally established in 1994 its main purpose is to raise the profile and reputation of FE in Kent and Medway while continually driving up the quality of FE provision.

Through agreed key strategic priorities, collaborative working, mutual support and the sharing of good practice, KAFEC aims to influence the development of education and training for the benefit of all learners.

We are seeking to appoint a Director of Development to drive forward the implementation of our Key Strategic Priorities. The successful applicant will be both innovative and strategic in their thinking with a proven track record of working with partnerships and managing the successful delivery of externally funded projects. Positive and pro-active in response to the volume and complexity of your work you will have excellent communication skills, the ability to negotiate bids and contracts and must be extremely self-motivated. The Chair of KAFEC is held by one of the six colleges, on a rotational basis. The current Chair is Principal at Canterbury College and the postholder will initially be based at Canterbury College until 31st July 2013. Thereafter, the post holder may be based at any one of the six KAFEC colleges in Kent and Medway.

Salary: £65k - £75k *(dependant on experience/expertise)*

Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure and List 99 clearance.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact the Chair of KAFEC, Alison Clarke on 01227 811122 or, alternatively, by e-mail: a.clarke@canterburycollege.ac.uk

To request an application form please:

Email: mandy.pegg@midkent.ac.uk

Telephone: 01634 383046 or 01634 383513

For further information about KAFEC visit: www.kafec.org.uk

The closing date for applications for the above post is midday Thursday 1st March 2012

KAFEC is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under-represented groups including black, minority, ethnic and disabled people.

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
The Hundred of Hoo School

Members of the The Williamson Trust
Executive Principal: Dr Gary Holden

IT Technicians (x 2 Posts)
VLE Support Technician (x 1 post)

Scale D2 (£15,039 - £19,126) pro rata for a term time only appointment)

The Williamson Trust consists of the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School and The Hundred of Hoo School. We are at an exciting stage in our development and have recently restructured our IT Department to meet the Trust's strategic vision for outstanding provision and outcomes for ICT. We are looking for ICT Technicians who relish a challenge and have the ability to multi-task at a moment's notice. If you have recent experience of Windows Server, Active Directory, Group Policy, Windows 7, Office 2010, SIMs and Apple Mac's and can demonstrate on your application ability to work as part of a team, flexibility in terms of work location and ability to communicate with staff at all levels we would be interested to receive your application.

One post will be based at the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School. The terms and conditions of this post will be 37 hours per week for 52 weeks of the year. The Hundred of Hoo School require one IT Technician to work 37 hours per week for 52 weeks of the year and the VLE Support Technician will work 37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year (a pro rata salary will therefore apply). The roles will also require you to work at either school or support our primary partner schools.

For more information on the two schools please visit our website (**www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk** or **www.hooschool.co.uk**). The job description/person specification will be available on the website for you to view and download

If you wish to have an informal conversation about the posts then please contact Mr Sean Daly, Director of IT, by email on **s.daly@hohschool.co.uk**.

All applications should be received by Mrs Lorraine Mottram, HR Manager, The Hundred of Hoo School, Main Road, Hoo, ME3 9HH (email **l.mottram@hohschool.co.uk**) by 4pm on 2 March 2012. Short-listed candidates will be invited for an informal visit at each school prior to interview. Interviews for the posts will take place the week commencing 12 March 2012 at the Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory clearance thereof.

Closing Date: Friday, 2nd March 2012

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) AE563 (SAXON SHORE WAY) IN THE PARISH OF RUCKINGE

BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT) AE563 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) AE563 between Ash Hill and Bilsington Road from the 17th February 2012

The BOAT will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before the end of May 2012.

The BOAT is to be closed because surface improvement works are taking place on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Ash Hill and Bilsington Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Andrew Hutchinson

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE271 (PART) AT BRABOURNE)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17 January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath AE271 which commences at NGR TR 0993 4170 (Point A) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 80 metres to NGR TR 1000 4166 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath AE271 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0992 4175 (Point C) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 101 metres to NGR TR 1000 4169 (Point D). The path then joins with AE271 on map sheet 145 (TR14SW).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 09 April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE493 (PART) AT ALDINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 15 December 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath AE493 which commences at NGR TR 0696 3507 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 75 metres to NGR TR 0695 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan. And add a section of Public Footpath AE493 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0696 3507 (Point A) and continues in a south south-westerly for 76 metres to NGR TR 0694 3500 (Point C). The path then joins with AE493 on map sheet 125 (TR03SE).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 09 April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

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WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE506 (PARTS) AT BONNINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17 January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting (a) that length of Public Footpath AE506 which commences at NGR TR 0578 3506 (Point A) and runs in a south south-westerly direction for 71 metres to NGR TR 0574 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and to delete (b) that length of Public Footpath AE506 which commences at NGR TR 0573 3493 (Point C) and runs in a north north-easterly direction for 83 metres to NGR TR 0577 3500 (Point D). Between points C-D on the Order plan. And add (a) a section of Public Footpath AE506 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0578 3506 (Point A) and runs in a south south-westerly direction for 65 metres to NGR TR 0576 3500 (Point E); and to add (b) a section of Public Footpath AE506 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0573 3493 (Point C) and runs in a north north-easterly direction for 77 metres to NGR TR 0576 3500 (Point E).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 09 April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE508 (PART) AT BONNINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 15 December 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath AE508 which commences at NGR TR 0561 3490 (Point A) and runs in a north north-westerly direction on the eastern side of the field boundary for 109 metres to NGR TR 0557 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath AE508 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0561 3490 (Point A) and runs in a north north-westerly direction on the western side of the field boundary for 116 metres to NGR TR 0556 3500 (Point C). The path then joins with AE508 on map sheet 126 (TR03NE).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 09 April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM72 (PART) AT BRENZETT)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 17 January 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath HM72 which commences at NGR TR 0272 3019 (Point A) and runs in a south south-easterly direction for 211 metres to NGR TR 0279 3000 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath AE271 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0272 3019 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 197 metres to NGR TR 0275 3000 (Point C). The path then joins with HM72 on map sheet 120 (TR02NW).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Shepway District Council, The Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4QB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 09 April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 26th February 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Public Notice

26 February 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Finance Act 1992
Information regarding Council Tax in accordance with Section 38

Notice is hereby given that on 16 February 2012 the Council set its Council Tax for the year 2012/13 and publishes notice of the following amounts payable which include Parish, Kent County Council and Kent Police Authority and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority precepts:

Band	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Adisham	974.03	1,136.37	1,298.71	1,461.05	1,785.73	2,110.41	2,435.08	2,922.10
Barham	977.81	1,140.78	1,303.75	1,466.72	1,792.66	2,118.60	2,444.53	2,933.44
Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne	964.67	1,125.45	1,286.23	1,447.01	1,768.57	2,090.13	2,411.68	2,894.02
Bishopsbourne	972.29	1,134.34	1,296.39	1,458.44	1,782.54	2,106.64	2,430.73	2,916.88
Blean	969.71	1,131.33	1,292.95	1,454.57	1,777.81	2,101.05	2,424.28	2,909.14
Bridge	980.63	1,144.07	1,307.51	1,470.95	1,797.83	2,124.71	2,451.58	2,941.90
Chartham	987.95	1,152.61	1,317.27	1,481.93	1,811.25	2,140.57	2,469.88	2,963.86
Chestfield	981.53	1,145.12	1,308.71	1,472.30	1,799.48	2,126.66	2,453.83	2,944.60
Chislet	974.63	1,137.07	1,299.51	1,461.95	1,786.83	2,111.71	2,436.58	2,923.90
Fordwich	977.39	1,140.29	1,303.19	1,466.09	1,791.89	2,117.69	2,443.48	2,932.18
Hackington	967.37	1,128.60	1,289.83	1,451.06	1,773.52	2,095.98	2,418.43	2,902.12
Harbledown and Rough Common	975.65	1,138.26	1,300.87	1,463.48	1,788.70	2,113.92	2,439.13	2,926.96
Hardres Lower and Nackington	967.31	1,128.53	1,289.75	1,450.97	1,773.41	2,095.85	2,418.28	2,901.94
Hardres Upper	971.75	1,133.71	1,295.67	1,457.63	1,781.55	2,105.47	2,429.38	2,915.26
Herne and Broomfield	976.13	1,138.82	1,301.51	1,464.20	1,789.58	2,114.96	2,440.33	2,928.40
Hoath	972.17	1,134.20	1,296.23	1,458.26	1,782.32	2,106.38	2,430.43	2,916.52
Ickham	969.35	1,130.91	1,292.47	1,454.03	1,777.15	2,100.27	2,423.38	2,908.06
Kingston	968.27	1,129.65	1,291.03	1,452.41	1,775.17	2,097.93	2,420.68	2,904.82
Littlebourne	995.51	1,161.43	1,327.35	1,493.27	1,825.11	2,156.95	2,488.78	2,986.54
Petham	978.05	1,141.06	1,304.07	1,467.08	1,793.10	2,119.12	2,445.13	2,934.16
Sturry	991.13	1,156.32	1,321.51	1,486.70	1,817.08	2,147.46	2,477.83	2,973.40
Thanington Without	974.81	1,137.28	1,299.75	1,462.22	1,787.16	2,112.10	2,437.03	2,924.44
Waltham	973.37	1,135.60	1,297.83	1,460.06	1,784.52	2,108.98	2,433.43	2,920.12
Westbere	994.25	1,159.96	1,325.67	1,491.38	1,822.80	2,154.22	2,485.63	2,982.76
Wickhambreaux	975.47	1,138.05	1,300.63	1,463.21	1,788.37	2,113.53	2,438.68	2,926.42
Womenswold	970.97	1,132.80	1,294.63	1,456.46	1,780.12	2,103.78	2,427.43	2,912.92
All other parts of the council's area	955.37	1,114.60	1,273.83	1,433.06	1,751.52	2,069.98	2,388.43	2,866.12

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY CT1 1YW

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00108/FUL: Land adjoining Park End, Station Chine, Herne Bay, CT6 5SS Erection of chalet bungalow (Revised scheme).
Applicant: Mr David Love Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00114/FUL: Chartham Surgery, Parish Road, Chartham Proposed modular building. **Applicant: NHS Kent and Medway**
Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00136/FUL: 15 The Friars, Canterbury, CT1 2AS Change of use from dwelling house (Use Class C3) to guest house (Use Class C1).
Applicant: Mr Baker Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 19 March 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 24 February 2012

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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1969/N - 75, COLLEGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6TF - Change of use from office B1 use to domestic C3 use with modifications to existing front entrance to new covered porch with steps & walling. **Reason: 9**

MA/11/2093/N - 29 TO 39, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LJ - Listed building consent for proposed extension and refurbishment of 6 No. almshouses, including demolition of existing single storey rear extensions and extension of railings to front boundary. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/2094/N - BOWLEY HALL COTTAGE, LIVERTON HILL, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2NL - Installation of flue. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0118/S - WESTERHILL FARM, WESTERHILL ROAD, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BS - Listed Building Consent for re-instatement of tile hanging to front elevation and a small area on the northern return. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0148/S - LAND EAST OF CHANCE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD - Erection of new Doctors' Surgery including a Pharmacy with associated car parking and access road. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0152/S - LITTLE CLOCK HOUSE, GEORGE STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RE - Change of use of land to provide an extension of existing caravan site to accommodate three additional gypsy families in three mobile homes. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0172/S - MOAT FARM, COLLIER STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RR - Residential conversion of oast and Grade 2 Listed barn to provide 5 no. dwellings, including use of existing outbuildings for garaging and ancillary residential use, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0173/S - MOAT FARM, COLLIER STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RR - Listed building consent application for works involved in the conversion of the barn to residential use. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0180/S - CHEQUERS, 20, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NE - Alterations at ground floor level to form utility room and erection of a detached outbuilding to replace existing garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0181/S - CHEQUERS, 20, HIGH STREET, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NE - application for listed building consent for alterations at ground floor level to form utility room and replacement gutters, rainwater pipes and vent pipe. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0183/N - 2, BROGDEN FARM COTTAGES, OLD MILL ROAD, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RT - Listed building consent for the erection of a two storey rear extension, single storey porch and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0184/N - 2, BROGDEN FARM COTTAGES, OLD MILL ROAD, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RT - Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey porch (Resubmission of MA/11/2005). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0188/S - LUCKS COTTAGE, HERMITAGE LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4DA - Listed Building Consent for remedial stabilisation of the rear two storey extension by means of traditional pad and beam underpinning; works to incorporate all necessary preparatory and reinstatements to facilitate the underpinning, and remedial works also include structural masonry repairs and repairs to floor slab. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0196/N - 34, PLANTATION LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BJ - Application for listed building consent for a replacement front door. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **11th March 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 26th February 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SE/0539/2011 - Proposed development at Seal CE Primary School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0DJ

Kent County Council is applying to the County Planning Authority for planning permission for renewal of planning permission for an existing modular building. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 26 February 2012

Kent County Council

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00050/FUL Flat C 44 Broadwater Down, Broadwater
- Reinstatement of window to rear elevation (CA)

12/00295/FUL Blue Cedars Langton Road, Broadwater
- Demolition of 3 bedroom bungalow and replace with a 3 bedroom house (CA)

12/00296/CAC Blue Cedars Langton Road, Broadwater
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of 3 bedroom bungalow (CA)

12/00127/HOUSE 1 Meadow View Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst
- Garden shed and green house (LB)

12/00367/HOUSE The Oast Smalls Farm, Horsmonden
- Internal alterations, replacement of shed entrance with continuation of existing lean-to roof, alterations, infilling and insertion of external openings (LB) (PROW)

12/00368/LBC The Oast Smalls Farm, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations, replacement of shed entrance with continuation of existing lean-to roof, alterations, infilling and insertion of external openings (LB)

12/00373/FULMJ Land West Of Kirkins Close Gibbet Lane, Horsmonden
- Development of 15 no. Local Needs Affordable dwellings comprising 2 no. 1-bedroom flats, 2 no. 1-bedroom wheelchair bungalows, 6 no. 2-bedroom houses and 5 no. 3-bedroom houses, including hard and soft landscaping - variation of condition 28 - vehicle parking space (including garages and pergolas) shall be provided, surfaced and drained before any building is occupied (TW/10/02630 refers) (MAJOR)

12/00419/FUL Hawkbrand House Longbrooks Farm, Paddock Wood
- Change of use of former farm office building to Class B1 office (bay 1), internet dress agency office and distribution centre (bays 2-6), use for domestic garages/storage (bays 7-8), and alterations to an existing access and track and creation of lands (LB)

12/00394/HOUSE 3 Grove Hill Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Alterations to basement to form shower room and installation of french door in place of window in rear basement room (CA) (LB)

12/00395/LBC 3 Grove Hill Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to basement to form shower room and installation of french door in place of window in rear basement room (LB)

12/00283/HOUSE The Redhouse Camden Park, Park
- Relocation of existing driveway entrance; Enlargement of driveway hardstanding (CA)

12/00284/CAC The Redhouse Camden Park, Park
- Conservation Area Consent - Relocation of existing driveway entrance; Enlargement of driveway hardstanding (CA)

12/00337/FUL Old Bothy Lodge Pembury Road, Park
- Demolition of existing single-storey lodge and erection of new dwelling with associated landscaping (reduced scheme following planning permission TW/09/03717) (CA)

12/00369/HOUSE 6 Lansdowne Square Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Insertion of flat roof dormer to rear elevation (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR)

Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1RS
Dated: 25 February 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Frasers, Coldharbour Farm, Barhams Mill Road, Egerton, Ashford**

Applicant: **Lisa-Jane Fraser**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

SOUTH CRAY BUILDERS LIMITED
(Company Number 07331850)
(Formerly Merritmax Resources Limited)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at LB Insolvency, Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, on Monday 5 March 2012, at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Peter George Byatt, LB Insolvency, Onslow House, 62 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SW, is qualified to act as insolvency practitioners in relation to the above and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required. Further details contact: P G Byatt, IP No. 8277,
Email: info@lbinsolvency.co.uk
Tel: 01245 254791.
Kim Allen, Director

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 12th MARCH 2012

TN/12/0017:
Installation of telecommunications cabinet - O/s 7 Dark Hill, FAVERSHAM; **REASON**

TN/12/0018:
Installation of telecommunications cabinet - 7 S/o 1 The Mall, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

TN/12/0019:
Installation of telecommunications cabinet - S/o 1 Queens Parade, East Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

TN/12/0020:
Installation of telecommunications cabinet - S/o 49 Newton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

TN/12/0021:
Installation of telecommunications cabinet - Napleton Road, Adj 46 South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0061:
Erection of two storey side extension to enhance existing accommodation and provide accommodation with roof void - 5 Travers Gardens, BREDGAR; **REASON 1,2 & 3**

SW/12/0073:
Install new double doors in place of existing window to ground floor south (rear) elevation - 12 Provender Walk, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0080:
Variation of conditions to extend the seasonal occupancy period from 1st March - 31st October in any year to 1st March - 3rd January in any year - Sheerness Holiday Park, Halfway Road, MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0110:
Retrospective application for the replacement of brick pavior to parking and construction of part new and part replacement of brick boundary wall with iron railings together with two number barrier gates - Former Alldays Store and Old Water Tower, Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0111:
Retrospective application for fitting box roller shutters to existing opening to former "Alldays" store, for security purposes - Former Alldays Store, Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0159:
Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission SW/09/0120 in order to extend the time limit for implementation to provide new buildings for additional B1, B2 and B8 employment use; creation of new access from Western Link and new roundabout - Land at Western Link, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 3 & 4**

SW/12/0180:
Retrospective application for consent for existing agricultural barn to accommodate livestock (miniature donkeys and goats) and associated feedstuffs, bedding and grazing land maintenance equipment - Deans Bank Cottage, Deans Bottom, BREDGAR; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0187:
Single storey rear extension and conversion of loft space - 108 Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0190:
Reconstruction of shop front - The Corner Shop, Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1 & 2**

SW/12/0191:
Advertisement Consent for Fascia sign (illuminated) - The Corner Shop, Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Lancaster Removals and Storage Ltd of Hobourn House, Medway Freight Centre, Priory Road, Strood, ME2 2BD is applying for a licence to use Units 3 and 4, Wharf Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2RU as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers and to use Medway Freight Centre, Priory Road, Strood, ME2 2BD as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

WE, Vinay & Dharmista Patel are applying for a variation of premises licence at the S&G Ltd T/A Halling News of 18 High Street Halling Kent ME2 1BX

The application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR. I am applying for the following (1) change of trading name (2) change of lay-out (3) Extension of the hours for the sale of alcohol (5am until 23:00)

Should wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view our application by contacting the council on 01634 337 107 or 337 108 by 21st March 2012

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Public Notice - Licensing Application - Licensing Act 2003

An application has been made by Greene King Retailing Limited to the Licensing Authority for Maidstone Borough Council to vary the Premises Licence for the Queens Head at High Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3AG.

The proposed variation is: To attach an amended licensing plan to include a new function room.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Licensing Partnership, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ. Interested parties (e.g. people living in the vicinity) or responsible authorities (e.g. Police and Fire Brigade) can make representations at any time between 22/02/2012 and 20/03/2012. All representations must be made in writing (including e-mail or fax). It is an offence knowingly or recklessly, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000.00) under section 158 of the licensing act 2003, to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

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01303 817044

Highways - District of Canterbury

A28 BROAD STREET / LOWER BRIDGE STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to a frame and cover in the carriageway for phone cable repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting southbound through traffic on the A28 Broad Street / Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 1 night, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am.

A28 BROAD STREET / LOWER BRIDGE STREET will be closed southbound from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to St George's Roundabout.

LADY WOOTTON'S GREEN will be closed westbound only (i.e. towards the ring road).

MONASTERY STREET will become one-way southbound only, from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to the junction with Longport.

LONGPORT will become one-way eastbound only, between the junctions with Monastery Street and Lower Chantry Lane.

The alternative route is via Lady Wootton's Green, Monastery Street, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, St George's Place, A2050 New Dover Road and Old Dover Road.

Local diversions will be in place for side roads, as signposted on site.

A2050 NEW DOVER ROAD, BRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential repairs to the A2 overbridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2050 New Dover Road, Bridge, on or after 28 February 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am.

New Dover Road will be closed Canterbury-bound between the A2 on-slip to and including the A2 Overbridge.

This is in conjunction with a Highways Agency closure of the Canterbury-bound off-slip of the A2 at this junction.

There will be no access into Canterbury from the A2 or Bridge via New Dover Road.

The alternative route is via A2 Dover Road, A28 Wincheap, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Upper Bridge Street, A2050 St George's Place and New Dover Road.

Traffic joining the A2 from Canterbury will be unaffected.

ST DUNSTAN'S STREET AND ST PETER'S PLACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of advanced works prior to the implementation of an environmental improvement scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A290 St Dunstan's Street and St Peter's Place, Canterbury, on or after 13 March 2012 for up to 9 weekday nights, between 8.00 pm and 5.30 am each night.

The closure of St Dunstan's Street and St Peter's Place will be between the junctions with North Lane and St Peter's Street (in the vicinity of the Westgate Towers).

There will be no through access between North Lane and St Peter's Street

The alternative route is via Rheims Way, London Road and St Dunstan's Street

Pound Lane will be closed at the junction with St Dunstan's Street.

The alternative route is via The Causeway and North Lane.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of rail replacement works at the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Stephen's Level Crossing, Canterbury, as shown below.

St Stephen's Road will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from 1.00 am on Sunday 4 March 2012 until 4.00 am on Monday 5 March.

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road St Stephen's Hill and St Stephen's Green.

Highways - District of Dover

AGESTER LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway pre-patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Agester Lane, Denton, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with A260 The Street to where it becomes Bunkers Hill.

The planned closure times are between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route is via A260 The Street, Canterbury Road, Reece Lane, Golden Hill, North Elham Hill and Bunkers Hill.

CAPEL STREET, CAPEL-LE-FERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne, from 14 March 2012 until 22 March 2012 inclusive.

It is anticipated the road will be closed weekdays only, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junction with New Dover Road and the bridge over the A20 Trunk Road.

The alternative route is via Cauldham Lane, Swinge Hill and Hockley Sole Lane.

HIGH STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway pre-patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Deal, on or after 18 March 2012 for up to 2 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with King Street to Oak Street.

The alternative route is via Beach Street, Godwyn Road, Sandown Road and High Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, EYTHORNE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD DOVER TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to prohibit waiting at all times on sections of Shepherdswell Road, Church Hill, Wigmore Lane and Shooters Hill, as detailed below.

SHEPHERDSWELL ROAD

On the northern side from the junction with Church Hill for a distance of 25 metres southwestwards

On the southern side from the junction with Shooters Hill for a distance of 25 metres southwestwards

CHURCH HILL on both sides, from the junction with Shepherdswell Road / Wigmore Lane for a distance of 18 metres northwestwards

WIGMORE LANE

On the northern side from the junction with Church Hill for a distance of 25 metres northeastwards

On the southern side from the junction with Shooters Hill for a distance of 25 metres northeastwards

SHOOTERS HILL on both sides, from the junction with Shepherdswell Road / Wigmore Lane for a distance of 18 metres southeastwards

This Order takes effect from 27 February 2012 for up to 4 months or until the works have been completed.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHEGWORTH ROAD, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Chegworth Road Ulcombe from the junction of Chegworth Lane running south to junction of Water Lane on or after Monday 27th February 2012 when required for a period of up to1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ashford Lane, Fairbourne Lane and Lenham Road.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow access for cabling works. .Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EASTWOOD ROAD, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Eastwood Road Ulcombe between Pye Corner and The Street Ulcombe (by Eden Cottage) on or after Monday 27th February 2012 when required for a period of up t014 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Headcorn Road, Pye Lane and Eastwood Road.

Kent Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for the installation of new gullies and associated pipework. .Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458247800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TOVIL ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PUFFIN CROSSING)

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, intends to convert the existing Zebra Crossing to a Puffin Crossing on Tovil Road, Maidstone, Kent, which is located approximately 33 metres south west of the mid point of its junction with Eccleston Road and Courtenay Road.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide a safe place for pedestrians to cross as there are concerns over pedestrian safety within the area. The existing Zebra Crossing is used by an increased number of school children and shoppers using nearby facilities and a high population from the surrounding residential housing estates.

The features of a Puffin Crossing include facilities to cancel pedestrian demands when they cross in the gaps in traffic and to allow for varying clearance times after the pedestrian green signal, to allow for slow pedestrians without harassment from drivers. The pedestrians in the area would therefore benefit from the introduction of a Puffin Crossing to assist with the high pedestrian movement throughout the area.

Jacobs Engineering UK LTD. has been commissioned by the Council to publish the Notice of intent at the same time as providing notification to all interested parties and complies with the requirements of Section 23(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984.

Copies of the plan showing this proposal an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ.

Highways - District of Shepway

CURTIS LANE, STELLING MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Curtis Lane, Stelling Minnis, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Stone Street and Bossingham Road.

The alternative route is via B2068 Stone Street, Grannies Hill, Lime Kiln Lane, The Street and Bossingham Street.

Every effort will be made to try and maintain access when it is safe to do so, but due to the nature of the works, inevitably there will be times when this is not possible.

Highways - District of Swale

WESTERN AVENUE, SHEERNESS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Western Avenue, Sheerness, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between property 2A Western Avenue and the junction with Queenborough Rd.

The alternative route is via Queenborough Road, Belmont Road and Hilda Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

CRESCENT ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crescent Road, Birchington, on or after 13 March 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Station Road and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Station Road and Albion Road.

DANE HILL, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Hill, Margate, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases starting from the junction with King Street / Dane Road. The works will be phased between the junctions of the side roads, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The alternative route for through traffic is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended from either direction up to the point of closure, to allow access.

Every effort will be made to try and maintain access when it is safe to do so, but due to the nature of the works, inevitably there will be times when this is not possible.

DANE ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Road, Margate, on or after 27 February 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The section of Dane Road to be closed is between the junctions with Addington Street / Dane Hill and Victoria Road / Bath Road.

The alternative route is via Wilderness Hill, Northdown Road, Trinity Square, Trinity Hill and King Street.

Addington Street will be closed at the junction with King Street / Dane Road, with the alternative route of Union crescent, Hawley Street and King Street.

Dane Hill will be closed at the junction with King Street / Dane Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended for access only.

Bath Road will be closed at the junction with Dane Road. The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended for access only.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Hill Grove, Margate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

Every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible, whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be some times when cannot be achieved.

HAINE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of overhead electricity cable works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Haine Road, Ramsgate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Rose Farm and Haine Farm (including Coldswood Road).

There will be no through access between both junctions with New Haine Road.

The alternative route is via A256 New Haine Road.

KING STREET & LOVE LANE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street & Love Lane, Margate, on or after 1 March 2012 for up to 4 weeks, as shown below.

KING STREET will be closed in phases between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street

LOVE LANE will be closed for its entire length

The alternative through route for these closures is via Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill, and Fort Road (plus Broad Street for Love Lane).

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Love Lane, Broad Street and King Street, between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street, will be suspended to allow access.

UNION ROW & PUMP LANE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and pre-patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Union Row & Pump Lane, Margate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Hawley Street, Union Crescent and Addington Street.

Westbound via Addington Street, King Street and Hawley Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 39) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be:-

Grange Road, Ramsgate

No waiting at any time (double yellow lines).

On the western side between points 15m and 55m south of the junction with Ellington Road (to the existing bus stop)

On the eastern side from the junction with Ellington Road for a distance of 28m in a southerly direction.

The Order was signed on 24 February 2012 and will come into force on 28 February 2012

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers proposes to make an Order under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 2(2), Sections 81 to 84 of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, the effect of which will introduce reduced speed limits to be enforced on the lengths of roads approaching and including the roundabout junctions and link road between them in the area commonly known as "Lord of the Manor".

Following on from the consultation carried out in January 2012 the Kent County Council has amended the proposals at the "Lord of the Manor" roundabout area from a proposed 30 mph speed limit to a proposed 40 mph speed limit.

As part of Kent County Council's regeneration programme, Phase 1 of East Kent Access was constructed and opened several years ago and Phase 2 included the construction of the A299 Hengist Way, from "Minster roundabout", eastwards to "Cliffsend roundabout", southwards to "Sevenscore roundabout" and eastwards to "Lord of the Manor junction"; and the A256 Richborough Way from "Sevenscore roundabout", southwards to "Ebbsfleet roundabout" and A256 Ramsgate Road, from "Ebbsfleet roundabout," southwards to "Richborough roundabout".

This section of works will reduce the speed limit on the approaches to the "Lord of the Manor" roundabouts, the circulatory carriageways and the link road between them, to 40 mph.

The length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on the A299 Canterbury Road East will be extended in a westerly direction from its current boundary adjacent to its junction with Windermere Avenue, to its southern roundabout junction with "Lord of the Manor"; and the length of the existing 40 mph speed limit on Sandwich Road will be extended in a north easterly direction from a point 23 metres north east of the mid point of its junction with Cliffs End Road to the southern roundabout at the junction commonly known as "Lord of the Manor".

Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd has been commissioned to work in partnership with the Kent County Council to progress the legal procedures necessary to implement the proposed measures.

A copy of the scheme proposal, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ, and affected Parish and Town Councils which are: Cliffsend PC, Manston PC and Ramsgate TC.

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B1425100" and stating their reasons, by no later than Monday 19th March 2012.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Common Road from Copt Hall Road to Sandy Lane on or after Monday 12th March 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Copt Hall Road, Coach Road, Sandy Lane.

BT Openreach and KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to access overhead cabling to provide a new service and carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact for BT is Rachel Cross on 03700 500792 and for KCC Highways is Louise Codman on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE STREET, RYARSH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street from Workhouse Road to Old School Lane on or after Monday 27th February 2012 for a period of up to 5 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Roughetts Road, A20 London Road, A228 Leybourne By-Pass, Bull Road, Birling Road, Bull Road, Ryarsh Road, Birling Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new drainage system. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOXHOLE LANE BRENCHLEY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Foxhole Lane from the junction with Bramble Reed Lane to outside Glenbrook on or after Monday 27th February 2012 for a period of up to 3 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Chestnut Lane, Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane, and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to allow safe access to boxes for safe cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mandy Richardson on 03700500792

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 26th February 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

GAMMAGE
Paul and Emma Gammage of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Jacob William Gammage on the 8th February 2012 weighing 8lb 2oz, a brother to Hayden.

KHATTRAN
Ajmail Singh and Pyar Kaur Burrha are proud to announce the arrival of their adorable grandson Amyran Singh Khattran. Wishing him health and happiness always.

RILEY
Fran and Andy Riley would like to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Sophia Mia Riley born on 31st January 2012. Baby sister to Oliver, Emily, and Isabelle

DEATHS

BAYNTON
Elizabeth died peacefully on the 9th of February at the Heart of Kent Hospice

MOSS
In loving memory Kathleen Elizabeth Moss passed away peacefully on January 31st. Love always your family. xxx.

PANTELI
Much loved Elli Panteli, wife of Theo, daughter of George and Niki Florides and beloved Mother of Antony, George and Nicholas. Adored by her three grandchildren, brothers, family, friends and local community. Sadly passed away on 11 February 2012 at home. Elli will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

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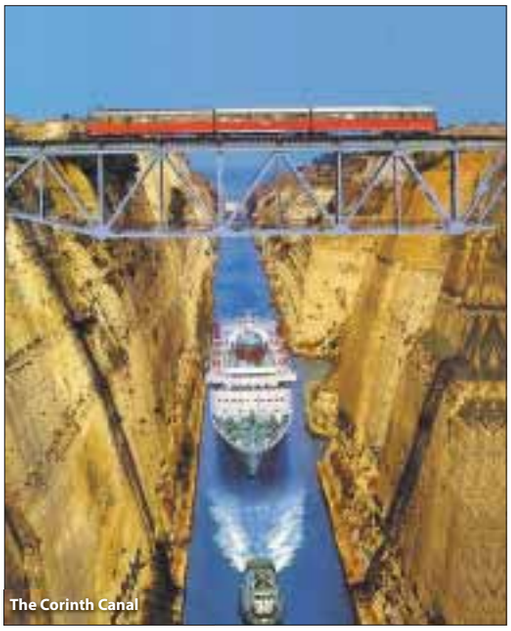
The Corinth Canal

The mv Arion

TRAVEL UPGRADE OPTIONS

BY RAIL:
COMFORT TRAVEL UPGRADE - £150pp
- Depart 9th October
- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras + Afternoon Departure + Luggage Handling + Paris overnight stay pre-cruise

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- Choice of Gatwick departures
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- Italy - Sardinia
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- Italy - Sicily
- Disembark Marseilles

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) or return flight from Gatwick to Marseilles
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- All transfers abroad

The pool

The restaurant

Weymouth

Weymouth Just for Adults

Self-Drive - Russell Hotel Weymouth Seafront

3 nights half board

Quote RW3-KOS

£89pp

2 & 9 March, 2012

Come with us to the Russell Hotel and enjoy a half price bar from 5pm-midnight on 1 night of your stay, plus nightly entertainment, breakfasts and dinners. Situated on Weymouth's historic esplanade, just yards from the famous beach and town centre, this warm and friendly adult-only hotel also offers traditional hospitality and quality accommodation.

INCLUDED:
- 3 nights en suite accommodation
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Entertainment
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The Batchelors Duncan Norvelle

Hayling Island Star Cabaret Breaks

Mill Rythe Holiday Resort

Self-Drive

3 nights half board

Quote MR-KOS

£99pp

16 & 23 March, 2012

Join us at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island for a Star Cabaret Weekend.

March 16 to 19 we celebrate St Patrick's Day with a party featuring The Batchelors - the first ever Irish Boy Band - whose catalogue of hits includes 'I Believe', 'Diane', 'Marie' & 'Sound of Silence'.

March 23 to 26 see funny man Duncan Norvelle - one of the most popular comedians on the club circuit - whose catchphrase "Chase Me" has been much copied.

INCLUDED:
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- Entertainment every evening with star act on Saturday night

Bosworth Hall Hotel

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Self drive, 2, 3 or 4 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote BRIT-KOS

From £99pp

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Ent	Price pp
Grand Burstin, Folkestone	12, 26 March	4	yes	£109
	2, 9, 16, 23 March	3	yes	£99
Grand Hotel, Scarborough	5, 12 Mar; 16 April	4	yes	£119
	9 March	3	yes	£99
Heathlands, Bournemouth	5 March	4	no	£119
	9 March	3	no	£109
Grand, Llandudno	12 March	4	yes	£139
	2 March	3	yes	£119
Bosworth Hall, Leics	2, 9 March	2	yes	£109

INCLUDED:
- 2, 3 or 4 nights stay with dinner & breakfast each day
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm nightly (up to 11pm at Bosworth Hall) for house beers, wines, spirits & pumped mixers • Nightly entertainment (not at Bournemouth)

Singer Olly Murs has The Quex Factor

SEE PAGE 55

SPACE CRAFT

How just one change will give you more room

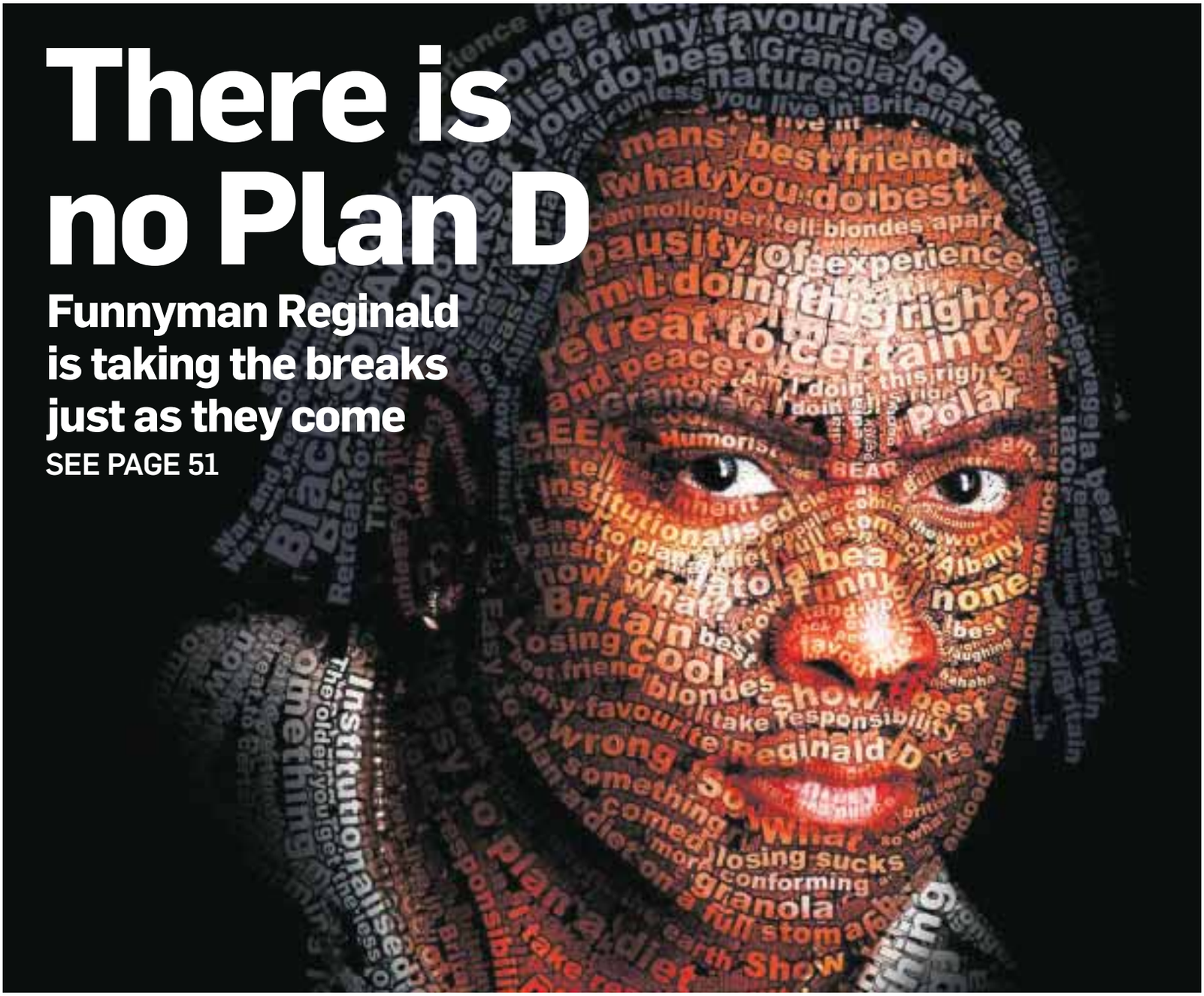
SEE PAGE 65

Kent Weekend

There is no Plan D

Funnyman Reginald is taking the breaks just as they come

SEE PAGE 51



PLUS: The meal that left one diner wanting to share his joy with the world - **food and drink p54** Shared ownership could offer the helping hand you need - **property p66** Hyundai keeps Europe in sights - **driving p71**

MURDER ON THE NILE
MON 5 - SAT 10 MAR

SING-A-LONG-A GREASE
SUN 11 MAR

SCIENCE MUSEUM LIVE
WED 14 & THU 15 MAR

THE RAT PACK
MON 27 FEB - SAT 3 MAR

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE
TUE 20 - SAT 24 MAR

STAR QUALITY
MON 26 - SAT 31 MAR

DANCING QUEEN
TUE 3 - SAT 7 APR

HAIR THE MUSICAL
MON 16 - SAT 21 APR

THE CROWSTARVER
TUE 24 - SAT 28 APR

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT
MON 30 APR - SAT 5 MAY

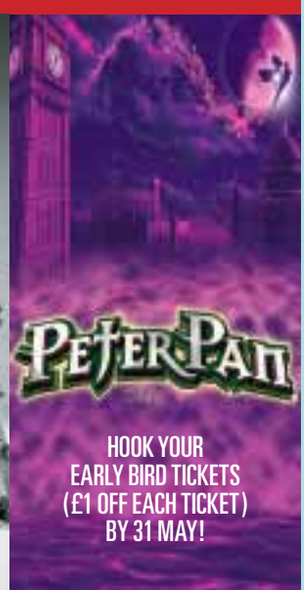
BETTE AND JOAN
MON 21 - SAT 26 MAY

THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
FRI 15 JUN

LADYBOYS OF BANGKOK
MON 11 JUN

BUDDY HOLLY
TUE 19 JUN

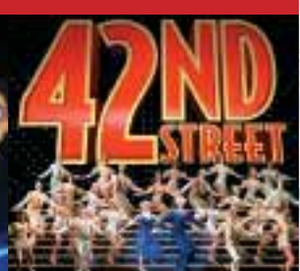
EARLY ADVENTURES
THU 21 - SAT 23 JUN



PETER PAN
FRI 30 NOV - SUN 6 JAN

THE TIGER WHO CAME TO TEA
MON 25 - WED 27 JUN

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
THU 28 - SAT 30 JUN



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THE INTERVIEW

Reginald D Hunter

An American comic in England? Now that was never in the plan

Joe Bill discovers an already popular stand-up feels he has yet to really hit his peak

THE deep, southern American accent of Reginald D Hunter is unmistakable. Taking time out from his busy schedule, sitting in a waiting room at BBC's Western House in London, the most sought-after comedian of the moment chatted tiredly to yet another journalist.

He said: "My, my, my, where are you now? Kent? There are some dangerous letter-writers in Kent. The BBC is terrified of letter-writers from Kent. I don't know why."

The 42-year-old is touring with his new show, Sometimes Even The Devil Tells The Truth, as well as appearing on TV to promote it and continuing his regular commitments to comedy panel shows.

He explained what his new tour was about: "There is a similar set of topics for this tour: destruction, terror, mayhem, but with a humorous and emotional twist, basically.

"None of it is controversial to me, but then I am not white middle class, so we won't know until I say it," he said.

The story of how he got into comedy is well known, but Hunter tells it anyway just for interview protocol.

"It was just some guys talking at a bar, talking junk, and I was blowing off some steam.

"My mate was, like, 'I bet you wouldn't be this funny on stage', and I was, like, 'Damn, where the stage at, I don't care'... know what I am saying?"

The giant American explained that the same questions kept cropping up with journalists and he wanted to talk about something else, so my line of questions changed rapidly and I asked what on Earth brought him to this rainy island in the first place.

A far more enthusiastic Reginald D Hunter emerged.

He said: "I wanted to see something different, feel something different, think something different, and I knew that wasn't very likely if I stayed over in Georgia. England was as far as my money and wits could take me.

"I actually came here to study acting. I was only supposed to be here a few months and then go back and start acting in New York or LA or whatever place would hire me, but what is that thing that Christians say? Your plan is what God likes to listen to when he wants a laugh."

The Georgian, known for his political satire, quick wit and laid-back, deadpan style, explained that comedy was, like many others, something he stumbled upon.

He said: "The acting stuff worked out OK, but it was just a short course. I didn't have the money for anything more. It ran its course and I ran its course. I came out of it and said 'Oh crap!' because I didn't know what to do.

"I didn't have a plan. I was like Indiana Jones in that first movie, just making it up as I go along. I was just going by what felt right, or where I could get a sandwich."

Hunter now has a career laden with critical acclaim, receiving Perrier Award nominations for his first three Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. He has also made his mark on the nation's DVD shelves with the November release of a show shot over two nights in June last year at London's Hammersmith Apollo.

However, comedy couldn't have been further from his mind while growing up in the deep south.

"I only started fiddling around with acting in my late teens, late in college," he said. "When I was a kid I had fantasies of becoming the president or a senator or an astronaut, all things little American boys dream about.

"When I was 14 I wanted to play baseball; at 16 I wanted to be a professional chess-player; and when I was seven I wanted to be a pimp for a little while."

But despite his success both in the UK and back across the pond, Hunter has no plans of getting "too big"...

"World domination? Nah, if I attain world domination it would only be for the brief period of setting the world free. I want to be free, but you can't be free by yourself."

But the six-foot-plus comedian does believe there is still more to come from his locker of laughter.

He said: "I believe I am yet to peak, but I don't know how true that is because everyone is delusional and thinks that.

"I feel as though I am entering the second act of my play of whatever my life is. We will figure out what act two is. I hope I either keep peaking and act two will be great and act three will be even better, or I die real quickly and go straight to legend status.

"That way is almost preferable as you get to do a lot less work."

Hunter has John Gordello opening the show for him, a man whom the stand-up says was an inspiration to him and a former flatmate.

"He is one of my mentors. The lessons that John has taught me resound in my ears.

"The first big gig I did after the first Perrier nomination was at His Majesty's Theatre [in Aberdeen]. I'd never seen three tiers of people looking at me before – it was a little like a deer caught in the headlights.

"He taught me that if you want to be a stand-up, then you cannot be beaten by a building, you cannot let the prestige or reputation or the lavishness of a place intimidate you. As a stand-up you're supposed to have an inherent disrespect for every building you're in."

Hunter remains constantly on our TVs, appearing on 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Mock The Week, but he has a place in his heart for one particular show.

"The best panel show is Have I Got News For You," he said. "They have been doing it a long time. They are like an old leather coat you have that just knows your shape and your grooves.

"They don't have the same level of tension that others have. There is a difference in working with old pros to working with people trying to establish something.

"Other shows often have panic about them and they make you show up at two, whereas the old pros just say 'Just show up at five, make something up, you'll be all right."

Clearly, given the success enjoyed by Reginald D Hunter, there's something to be said for that.

■ **See www.reginalddhunter.co.uk for details of tour dates.**

FUNNY GUY: Reginald D Hunter

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Willerby Park Lodge 35ft x 12ft, 2 bedrooms sited at Winchelsea Sands, nr Rye. Warm air heating, modern layout and sleeps 6. Park is 400 metres from beach, dog friendly with pool, bar and restaurant. Extended season, pitch fees included. First to see will buy **£21,750 ono. Call Dean/Liz on 07894 596304.**

Willerby Park Lodge 35ft x 12ft, 2 bedrooms sited at Winchelsea Sands, nr Rye. Warm air heating, modern layout and sleeps 6. Park is 400 metres from beach, dog friendly with pool, bar and restaurant. Extended season, pitch fees included. First to see will buy **£21,750 ono. Call Dean/Liz on 07894 596304.**

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Tenterden 2012
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revelation St Mary's

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Saturday 10th March £8 advance/£10 on the door

Steeleye Span vocalist
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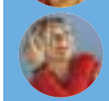

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www.facebook.com/revelationstmarys
All details are correct at the time of going to print but may be subject to change.

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Sunday 18th March

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Two courses £13.50
and
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All for only £25 per couple.

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18th March Mothering sunday set menu

01227 751207 www.theredlion.org

Indian cuisine that brings you back for more

THE Badsha Indian-cuisine restaurant is as synonomous with Tenterden as it is with its beautiful and traditional food.

And with more than a quarter of a century of experience behind it, this family business has gone from strength to strength.

Its excellent reputation and understanding of both regular and new customers mean that the Badsha name has become widely known throughout the county. The restaurant has been rewarded with four out of five stars for hygiene and its staff firmly believe in cooking meals from fresh every day.

Current offers include a meal for two at £31.95, with tandoori chicken, sheek kebab, lamb tikka, papadom, chicken tikka bhoona, lamb pasanda, Nawabi fresh begun bhajee, pilau rice and naan bread plus a dessert and coffee.

A second deal priced at £31.95 offers tandoori mixed kebabs, papadom, chicken tikka mussallam, lamb tikka bhoona, fresh bindi bhajee, pilau rice and naan bread, plus a dessert and coffee.

The Badsha specialises in tandoori dishes, with popular choices chicken Bemisal, chicken sagorana and lamb elahi, recommended to any new customers.

Open every day, including bank holidays, from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm to 11.30pm.

■ **Badsha Indian Cuisine, 10 West Cross, Tenterden TN30 6JL (phone 01580 765151)**

CHEF RECOMMENDS

THE CAPTAIN DIGBY: Telephone: 01843 867764
Starter: Captain's Combo (serves two) at £9.95, four hickory smoked pork ribs, four mild'n'wild chicken fillets, four mini spring rolls, battered onion rings, potato shells and nachos.
Main: Digby Chicken Supreme at £11.25. A 280g/10oz chicken supreme stuffed with a smooth pâté and pan-fried in the chef's own sauce.
Dessert: A variety of desserts from which to choose.
MAMA FEELGOODS: Telephone: 01227 830830
Starter: Chestnut mushrooms and hazelnuts in a garlic cream on seed toasts finished with truffle oil
Main: Smoked haddock fishcakes with home-made tartare sauce and salad garnish.
Dessert: Lemon meringue pie.
CHIVES ON THE GREEN: Telephone: 01227 832637
Starter: A steamed roll of local cod and house smoked salmon on fine handmade noodles with a light wasabi and lemon broth.
Main: Pork fillet stuffed with wild mushrooms and rocket, wrapped in Parma ham and encased in a puff-pastry collar, on a potato rosti with calvados jus.
Dessert: A special five morsels of dessert on one plate.
THE BLACK PIG: Telephone: 01304 813000
Starter: Smoked mackerel and horseradish pâté.
Main: Slow-cooked brisket in red wine with bacon and mushrooms.
Dessert: Home-made chocolate mousse
BADSHA: Telephone: 01580 765151
Starter: Salmon ka tikka – chunks of pink Scottish salmon matured in a rich spicy marinade.
Main: Chicken green mosalla, keema naan, pilau rice.
Dessert: Coffee

MAMA'S SECRET RECIPES: Feel good with wonderful tasty treats for every day of celebration – Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or even just because you feel like it

Experience more than just a shopping trip when you pop into Mama Feelgoods

ALL at Mama Feelgoods are working hard so that customers get more from their shopping trips by organising a host of events to make visits even more special.

Celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, March 18, when you can come for special lunch or afternoon tea – or try another diary event at Easter with the Fair And Vintage Tea Party for the Jubilee.

This year, as Father's Day coincides with Open Farm Sunday, there will be a chance to see what else goes on around and about Mama Feelgoods at Chalk Pit Farm, too.

Mama Feelgoods has announced a committment to become an anniversary sponsor for the Pilgrims Hospices, which will mean more fun charity events.

Mama said: "Our first event will be a garden party in June where drinks and canapés will be served, with jazz played at a beautiful garden location in Bishopsbourne."

Tickets will be on sale soon.

If you want to keep up to date, join the Mama Feelgoods Facebook page. If you would like to receive latest news and offers, sign up for email news by sending your email address to info@mamafeelgoods.com. Each month there is a prize draw for all newsletter readers.

Also new in store are lovely Mother's Day gifts, plus a new loose chocolate counter at which you can choose your favourite sweets – they will then be gift-wrapped for you.

Easter gifts are now available for something a bit different – try the hand-wrapped eggs filled with salted caramels, or a basket of praline mini eggs in spring-coloured foils.

■ **Mama Feelgoods, Fine Food Store, Deli Cafe and Cake Craft Shop, School Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5EU (phone 01227 830830, web www.mamafeelgoods.com)**

Black Pig will warm up cold nights

THE Black Pig is a fine 19th-century timbered building with a large garden and free parking.

The bed-and-breakfast has five en-suite rooms, two doubles, two twins and one single, while a function room is available for wedding receptions, parties and other events.

There are two separate dining areas, with an extensive range of home-cooked meals using locally-sourced food.

Guests can also enjoy a drink in the two bars, choosing from a large selection of real ales – the pub is featured in the 2012 CAMRA beer guide.

The eatery has recently been refurbished and has a lovely setting in the picturesque village of Staple, which is close to both Canterbury and Sandwich.

There are lunchtime and evening menus to choose from and the charm and beauty of the building, together with the friendliness of staff and locals and the exceptional food, makes it one of the best places to visit in the area.

On those cold winter nights, you can cosy up by the log fire and enjoy ales, wine and a friendly atmosphere.

The Black Pig is a country pub where dogs, children, horses and passing tractor-drivers are all welcome.

Food is served from midday to 3pm and 6pm-9pm on Tuesday to Saturday and midday to 4pm on Sunday.

Gambian Charity Night is on Saturday, February 25, from 7pm onwards, when hot Gambian food will be served accompanied by African drumming and dancing.

The Mothering Sunday Menu will be available on March 18, so check the website.

■ **The Black Pig Barnsole Road, Staple CT3 1LE (phone 01304 813000, website www.the blackpig.co.uk)**

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Why you should plough a joyful furrow towards this rural gem

A DARK and winding road through woods and across fields was the perfect prologue to a meal on the green.

Stalisfield Green, to be precise, home to The Plough, a traditional country pub built almost 600 years ago that sits proudly in the middle of nowhere. But what a gem...

A roaring fire, beams and tight bar set the tone for what was to be a cosy and delicious meal for two. Seated in old armchairs, we were greeted warmly and given a choice of drinks, almost all originating from the surrounding area, and all definitely brewed in Kent.

We were handed our printed menus featuring meals and ingredients sourced from Kentish farmers, fishermen and brewers.

Each dish had a name and the location from where it was sourced. And on consultation with our attendant we were assured of the quality ingredients available, with the old 'We know the farmer personally' line.

As The Plough representative had promised, we were not disappointed. To start, I opted for mussels steamed in Biddenden cider (£7.95). Without beating about the bush, they were the best mussels I have ever eaten. They were juicy, oozing flavour and cooked to perfection, with

RESTAURANT REVIEW

none of the usual garlic war. Questioning the waiter on where they were from, I was told that usually the mussels used are from Hythe Bay, but because of the time of year these were from Shetland, where the colder water was more beneficial to growth. That will do for me.

My guest opted for the curried parsnip soup with sesame straws (£6.50) – the thumbs-up came as the creamy soup was polished off without a hint of fatigue.

For mains I was swayed from the Romney mutton pie by the Farmer Palmer's 28-day Angus steak with chips, mushroom, slow-roasted tomato and chop house sauce. I chose the rump rather than the sirloin at £16.95.

Medium rare I ordered, medium rare it arrived, an overlooked skill. The steak arrived separate to the home-cooked, crispy chips, promoting its magnitude.

It was everything a steak should be, juicy but not fatty... excellently done. I almost wish I had gone for the sirloin because I can't imagine how the higher grade tasted.

My guest went for the Monkshill Farm Kentish ranger chicken with smoked bacon (£15.25). A quick taste confirmed the presentation wasn't just a façade – succulent with no hint of dryness.

The Plough's home-made ice-cream (£4) – we chose the praline and chocolate-brownie flavours – was a perfectly light end to the meal.

Many businesses want to buy into the idea of locally-sourced food, but here it was done properly for just £59.75 for two. They say that if you have a good meal you will tell five people... a bad one, you will tell 15. After this joyous experience, those figures should change.

Joe Bill

■ **The Plough at Stalisfield Green, near Charing, ME13 0HY**
Telephone: 01795 890256
Website: www.stalisfieldgreen.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month.

EGERTON: This farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall.

MERSHAM: Featuring produce from the immediate area is the market now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

MEOPHAM: This farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car-park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

HILDENBOROUGH: Every Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

IWADE: The village-hall farmers' market opened in February 2009; it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm, offering seasonal local produce.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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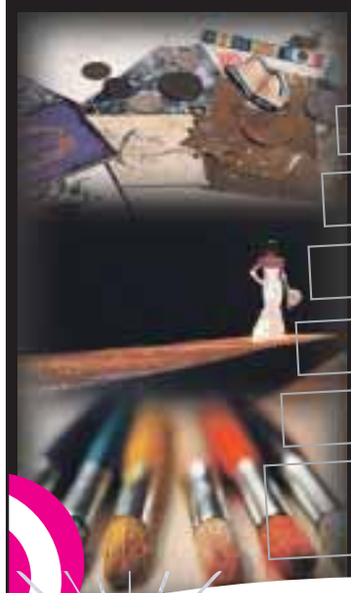

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks
Quex Factor

Quex Park, Birchington
Sunday, July 29
0844 8889991
www.gigantic.com

KENT hearts will skip a beat as they prepare to get down with the trumpets to The X Factor's Olly Murs and Rizzle Kicks at Quex Park. Murs, right, has announced he is set to headline the Sound Island Festival at Quex Park, Birchington, and confirmed the first of his guests will be chart-topping collaborators Rizzle Kicks, performing to an expected audience of 10,000. Since coming second in 2009's series of The X Factor, the singer-songwriter has bagged a double-platinum-selling debut album, two top-five singles, the first of which, Please Don't Let Me Go, reached the No 1 spot. He recently collaborated with Rizzle Kicks on Heart Skips A Beat.

Was this the first real detective story?
The Woman In White

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tuesday, February 28-Saturday, March 3
01892 678678

OFTEN considered to be the first real detective story, this new adaptation of Wilkie Collins's 19th-century novel The Woman In White heads to the Trinity Theatre this week.
The story revolves around Sir Percival Glyde, who is hounded for money by his old friend, the sinister Count Fosco, so his marriage to the heiress Laura Fairlie is for one reason only... her fortune.
As events unfold, Glyde's behaviour becomes more desperate as he attempts to secure Laura's money. The show is an intriguing mix of disturbing greed, romance and mystery.
Trinity will be running evening and matinee showings of this entertaining and gripping production.
Tickets cost £12.50 each night, with the matinee performance at £7.50. Phone the box office on 01892 678678 or visit www.trinitytheatre.net.

Let the trains take the main stage
Steam festival

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Sunday and Monday, April 8-9
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

FANS of old-time transport will get the chance to let off steam at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, over Easter.

Now in its 10th year, organisers are focusing this year's Medway Festival Of Steam And Transport on trains. Joining the specialist vehicles will be a new Steampunk village, a folk and blues music stage and an Airfix 'make-and-take' section.
The dockyard's own locomotive Ajax will be on show, along with the 1895 Aveling & Porter Sydenham and 1936 Peckett. There is also the guest engine Victory, an ex-dockyard locomotive returning to Chatham on one of its first outings following restoration.

Music maestro is still rocking
Nick Lowe

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thursday, March 1
01892 530613

A TRUE legend comes to Kent in March when musical genius Nick Lowe brings his band to Tunbridge Wells for a jam session.
The creative force behind Brinsley Schwarz and Stiff Records and now on his own successful solo career, Lowe is widely recognised as one of the UK's finest performers and songwriters.
His latest album, At My Age, is sure to get a good airing at Tunbridge Wells, but his old classics are never negelcted.
A regular on Later... with Jules Holland, Lowe has proved just how good he is live, so you really won't be disappointed.
Tickets cost £24.50 and are available through the box office on 01892 530613 or via www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Annual Passes now available from just £10

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Friday 16th March 2012 @ 7:30pm
• Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens
• Directed by Adam Morley • Consultant Gerald Dickens
Tickets: Adult £15, Concession £13, Child £10
Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Chatham, ME4 4LL
Box Office: 01634 890421 • www.dickensworld.co.uk

Time for Tea
A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.
Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.
*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches
Next Show
Wednesday 21st March 2012
For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

JONGLEURS COMEDY NIGHTS
Friday 2nd March 2012
Friday 30th March 2012
Friday 27th April 2012
Tickets from £10.80
Visit Dickens World or call 01634 890421

Tom O'Connor & The Vintage Corporation
A night of Top Class Comedy and Music from the 60s & 70s
Saturday 2nd June 2012 - Britannia Theatre
Tickets: Only £14.75 To book call 01634 890421

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A Monster in Paris 2D (U)
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Chronicle (12A) Digitial
Ghost Rider 3D : Spirit of Vengeance (12A)
Jack & Jill (PG)
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (12A)
One for the Money (12A)
Safe House (15)
Star Wars Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace 3D
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)
The Grey (15)
The Muppets (U)
The Vow (12A)
The Women in Black (12A)
Austism Screening of John Carter (12A)
ODEON KIDS - Rango (PG)
SENIOR SCREEN
Footloose (12A)
NEWBIES
One for the Money (12A)
OTHER CINEMA
Shame (18)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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Women Seeking

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

32YR old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045**

FEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

CLARE attractive, petite, size 8, brown hair, blue eyes, likes theatre, walks, shopping, seeks genuine male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385673**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for fun male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351**

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349**

SUSIE 45, 5ft 8ins, student, outgoing, easygoing, likes the outdoors, museums, theatre, socialising, seeks likeminded male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389716**

IVY May tall, slim, voluptuous, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733**

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655**

DEBS slim attractive stylish 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653**

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651**

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597**

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laidback relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595**

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! must have a GSOH and own home, I will provide the entertainment! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTM kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

MARY 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049**

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTM genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047**

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

JO 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899**

46YR old single mum, caring, loving, GSOH, seeks male for lasting relationship. Must like children. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385101**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

BERYL retired, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for fun and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

LISA blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205**

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203**

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

Men Seeking

MALE outgoing, what you see is what you get, seeks female for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389884**

PHIL 62, 6ft, medium build, tactile, seeking loving LTR with attractive, tallish lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386391**

GENUINE easygoing male, 55, seeks petite female, 45-50 for fun, friendship and good company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386383**

MALE 44, kind, honest, caring, blue eyes, dark hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386269**

CARING down to earth 57yr old male, OHAC, 5ft 9ins, slim, seeks slim lady for fun and more. Social smoker and likes a pint, how about you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386237**

PAUL 65, caring, likes socialising, pubs, meals out, coastal walks, football, darts, nights in, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384819**

IAN blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, likes pubs, meals out, holidays, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384817**

SINCERE warm man, 66, 5ft 9ins, seeks affectionate lady for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384371**

CANTERBURY male, 56, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim black/white/Asian/Oriental female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673**

DAVID 65, slim, 5ft 8ins, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384707**

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151**

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959**

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933**

EARLY 40's male, handsome, strong, looking for fun times with likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389128**

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066**

ROBIN mid 50's, GSOH, open-minded, likes movies, cosy nights in, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389678**

SEAN likes nights out, seeks female for dates, fun times and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385457**

MALE 57 seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385455**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, music, theatre, countryside, walks, cinema, meals out, seeking female, 35-64 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386071**

MALE 55, VGSOH, saga reject, styled by Rigsby, 5ft 10ins, fit, seeks female, 45-60 for fun, romance and whatever happens. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386035**

ROBERT 5ft 6ins, dark hair, easygoing, seeks petite, easygoing lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389790**

MALE seeks female for nights out, coast, meals out days out and to share home life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385891**

SEAN looking for female, 35-48 for dates, fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385869**

MICHAEL 62, seeks romantic, understanding Maltese/Portuguese lady, 50-65 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385793**

5FT 9ins male, brown hair, athletic, looking for female for 1-2-1 relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385733**

MALE seeks sweet female for romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384939**

Gay Seeking

MIDDLE aged man, non scene, seeks male, any age for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386419**

GAY man, 63, looking for N/S gay guy for meetings, outings, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386131**

18YR old gay male, seeking nice guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386097**

JIM N/S 65, retired, 5ft 8ins, CD, seeking dominant male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385305**

RYAN medium build, brown hair, looking for male for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381211**

JOHN 59, seeking fit, assertive male, 49-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377817**

JOHN 50, gay, non scene, looking to meet younger guy under 24 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389342**

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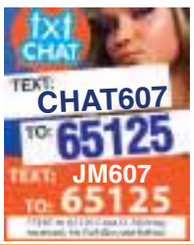

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The Great British Home Show

The one-stop-shop for everything you want your home to be

By Gary Wright

THE Great British Home Show 2012 will be held in Kent's new £60 million events venue, Glow, Bluewater, over the bank holiday and Diamond Jubilee weekend from Thursday, May 31, to Monday, June 4.

The show's theme 'Reveal Your Hidden Home' recognises people are choosing to stay where they already live and improve their surroundings rather than uproot to a new home, and will showcase thousands of inspirational ideas and products from the best that Britain has to offer.

Alongside hundreds of Great British Home Show exhibitors, there will be a spectacular Diamond Jubilee street party across one level of the Glow complex, complete with a village green, central bandstand, sports village and traditional market stalls, all surrounded by some amazing gardens designed especially for the show.

The street party will give visitors the chance to step back in time and peek inside a typical house from 1952 to see how life in the great British home has changed since the Queen ascended to the throne.

"This is a unique exhibition which will bring a new experience for visitors offering a great day out with the chance to see and buy all the latest in contemporary design for the home and garden," said Nick James, event director for All About Brands, the company behind the show.

A STARRING ROLE: Glow, Bluewater, is Kent's new £60 million events venue that will host the show

Exhibitors are being chosen to ensure visitors can discover the widest possible range of contemporary and traditional home design from furnishings, kitchens and bathrooms to the way to integrate the latest technology in your home.

There will be demonstrations and advice from celebrity experts, which will include choosing the right interior schemes and utilising the very latest colours and materials through to exciting ways to make the most of the space you have indoors and out.

"There is no need to move home, this show will focus on making the very best of what you have. We are sure every visitor will leave the show bursting with ideas and inspiration," said Nick.

"The Great British Home Show will give visitors a fun-packed family day out.

"The show has been designed with a single goal in mind: to create a one-stop-shop for everything to do with the home. It's a 'must-attend' event for anyone with an interest in interiors, gardens, DIY and design."

No small wonder UK gardeners are

By Gary Wright

JAPANESE gardens have evolved since they came to the West 200 years ago and have proved increasingly popular in the UK as they create a calm, tranquil space away from hectic modern life.

These traditional gardens often feature miniature idealised landscapes that can be abstract and highly stylised.

Japanese temple gardens use stone groupings in a 'sea' of raked gravel for Zen meditation, while 'stroll' gardens with lawns and lush planting can be enjoyed by the entire family.

Bonsai enthusiasts plan part of their garden with a Japanese influence to showcase their miniature trees. Whatever the style, though, they all enjoy meticulous attention to detail.

Howard Healey is an award-winning landscaper who also runs Rhino Rock, Europe's most comprehensive Japanese garden centre near Tonbridge.

He will be building a unique Japanese City Courtyard show garden complete with water feature for The Great British Home Show 2012 (at Glow, Bluewater, from Thursday, May 31, to Monday, June 4) which will be displayed among specially-designed gardens on level one, where the Great British Street Party will take place to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr Healey, who leads this small, family-run business, said: "In 1992 we custom-built a unique Japanese garden and water garden centre to display a comprehensive range of Japanese garden materials, water features and Bonsai trees.

"Our business has grown since then and we are now recognised as one of the premier suppliers of Japanese garden materials.

"A thorough knowledge of the subject, the love of transforming the client's dream into reality, and the quality construction of our gardens is the most satisfying aspect to our work."

In addition, the company imports an attractive range of natural stone products for all genre of garden styles, not just Japanese.

These include granite benches, bridges for water gardens, stepping stones and some unique paving materials.

Many of the designs are exclusive to Rhino Rock and all are hand-carved to very high standards from a 'fine fleck' granite.

The nursery features attractive display gardens to help visitors visualise what can be achieved in small spaces.

All the Japanese lanterns, water basins and water features are tastefully displayed and available for purchase from stock.

Drilled rock water features and an exciting range of exclusive contemporary designs hand-carved in granite can be bought as a DIY kit with all the necessary pumps, hosepipe, pond-liner, water tanks and other accessories.

Mr Healey said: "Our drilled rocks are the most natural of all water features and will add charm to any garden. We drill the rock ourselves and have a huge selection to choose from.

"Our innovative lighting options add a sparkle to the water feature at night."

The selection of plants for Japanese gardens includes Acers, bamboo, evergreen shrubs and lovely 'cloud trees' that feature clipped foliage pads from Japan.

Rhino Rock landscaping services offers a fresh approach to Japanese garden design, water gardens and contemporary spaces.

The company caters for everything from small courtyard design to major landscaping projects.

As part of the design service, Mr Healey provides a drawing, with an accurate, written description of the materials and features in the garden design.

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turning Japanese

LITTLE GEMS: Meticulous detail goes into planning a Japanese garden

He said: "We charge a design fee and also provide a firm quote for the work to be done."

His small professional team works on your project from conception to construction.

"We go to great lengths to meet the client's requirements, working to ensure that they are pleased upon project completion. We build only one garden at a time and, barring inclement weather, work through from start to finish without interruption," said Mr Healey.

His customer base includes the public, self-build developers, interior designers, architects, landscape architects and the building trade.

He said: "We have been importing granite products for many years and use many of them in our Japanese landscaping projects. Our manufacturing partners have been carefully selected to ensure that the granite used and the quality of the goods produced is always of the highest standard."

Many of the products are manufactured to Rhino Rock's own design and are exclusive to the company.

■ **To learn more about Japanese gardens, visit www.buildajapanesegarden.com. For more information about Rhino Rock's granite range, visit www.architecturalgranite.co.uk. For further details about The Great British Home Show 2012 at Glow, Bluewater, from Thursday, May 31, to Monday, June 4, visit www.gbhomeshow.co.uk.**

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Put your personality up there for all to see with right choice of wallpaper

WALLPAPER in the home is enjoying a surge in popularity as people look to brighten up their décor.

Minimalism was popular for a number of years when it came to interiors, but homeowners are once again embracing colour and vibrancy.

Astra Décor Ltd, of Milton Regis, near Sittingbourne, is Kent's largest specialist wallpaper store and has been established for 40 years.

It has more than 750 designs in stock and there are another 20,000 options available to view in books.

George Miller, who runs the company, said: "What used to be the case is that wallpaper became popular as most homes did not have great walls. As these improved, minimalist designs became popular – but there was also the concept of a 'feature wall'. This is one out of four which is decorated in bright colours and provides a focus for the room.

"Then people started to think 'Maybe the whole room can be vibrant and bright'. So they started to decorate the four walls."

To give customers as wide a range as possible, Astra Décor has stocks from all the main UK and European manufacturers.

Mr Miller said: "We have people coming to us from as far away as Holland, Belgium and France. It's interesting that people use the wallpaper to express part of their personalities – reflecting themselves in their homes.

"Extroverts may choose something which will immediately hit you when you walk into a room, and introverts may prefer something a little more discreet.

"But whatever they want, we will be there to offer advice. I feel that we get so many visitors to our store as wallpaper is a tactile thing.

"As well as seeing it, people want to touch it and get the feel of it."

Making our feathered friends feel at home

ATTRACTING wild birds to a garden is one way of increasing appreciation of the natural world – and there are ways to make your surroundings attractive to different species.

Last year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch results showed some of the smaller birds that had decreased in numbers the previous year bounced back. But in the last 30 years many species have been in decline.

Sightings of house sparrows, robins, chaffinches and starlings have all declined since 1979, while woodpigeons and collared doves have shown big increases. The problem is that the sheer size of the bigger birds can scare off small birds that venture into gardens.

However, there are specific foods that smaller birds love and you might consider when refilling your bird-feeders; these include such as nyjer and sunflower seeds. Peanuts are rich in fat, but you should never use salted or dry-roasted peanuts, and only buy from a reputable source.

Fat-balls are great for many birds, especially in cold weather, but make sure you remove them from any nylon mesh before putting them out as birds can catch their feet in the mesh.

Live food such as mealworms is relished, but make sure these are fresh.

Of course, your own planting scheme can also go some way to making your garden a haven for birds. A good hedgerow, with a mixture of deciduous trees, shrubs and climbers, will provide birds with both shelter and food.

If you select your bird food carefully, hopefully you'll soon have a host of winged visitors – and not only the large ones – to your garden.

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Preparation to make your garden grow

Kent-born and bred, Lucy Hewett grew up on the family farm in Staplehurst. She was always interested in plants and after the birth of her daughter she studied and became RHS-qualified. She now spends her time growing vegetables and flowers from her smallholding in Lynsted near Faversham. Much of her quality produce finds its way to local pubs and restaurants.

LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT

FOR someone who loves the garden, winter gardening can be a physiological battle. To leave the warmth of the house and get out there can be the hardest thing. However, some of my most productive times have been in the winter.

So I vowed I would not procrastinate this year but instead grasp the nettle (no pun intended) and get ahead with some jobs before the onset of spring. Although the winter is (hopefully) nearing its end, there is still time to prepare.

Bright and breezy

It's not all gloom and doom out there. It's worth venturing out just to see the variety of winter interest around: the fragrant blooms of viburnums, *Sarcococca confusa* (Christmas box), *Lonicera fragrantissima* (shrubby honeysuckle), *Hamamelis* (Chinese witch hazel), *Skimmias* and the berries of the holly.

The beautiful coloured stems of dogwoods, willows and the polished mahogany bark of the *Prunus serrula* are at their best at this time of year, not to mention carpets of cyclamen, snowdrops, crocus and aconites to admire.

Assess, reshape and reposition

When the ground is bare in the winter months it's a good time to assess your whole garden. If the ground is not too hard you can reshape beds and reposition dominant features to improve planting schemes.

Structure in the form of trees, shrubs, hedges, walls and fences is so important if you don't want your garden to look lifeless out of season and provide a good background for summer interest.

Evergreens clipped into distinctive shapes give some formality. Use this time to check fences for damage and repair while you are able to get to them to do so.

Tidy and clean

So now's a chance to tackle that pile of seed trays and pots you've been collecting all year.

Give them a brush and wash with a little Jeyes fluid or disinfectant – clean pots means healthy plants. Cloches will also benefit from a wash with soapy water; then pop the cloches over the soil to start warming it in preparation for seed-sowing.

Sweep out the greenhouse and wash down the glass that may have become grubby and renew bubblewrap and capillary matting if necessary.

Clear leaves from paths to avoid slipping on them and from beds and pop them on the compost. Now, doesn't that feel better! Nothing like a bit of order to get you ready for the spring.

Pruning

You can go for years without really needing to do any serious pruning, but roses are one of the things that do need to be pruned yearly.

• **Rose-pruning:** make sure your secateurs are sharp. Always cut at an angle just above a bud/leaf joint that faces the direction you want the new shoot to grow in, which is generally outwards to avoid crowding the centre of the plant.

Cut out any crossing, dead, damaged or diseased stems. Add some potash around the base also.

• **Trees and shrub-pruning:** the same applies to any trees of shrubs that need a tidy-up – use long-handled loppers to give you greater leverage on thicker stems and pruning saws for branches. Always cut a branch close but not flush to the trunk or main stem.

Cut back any clematis you have that flowered in late spring or early summer and tie in wayward stems to the main support. Early spring flowering and winter clematis do not need any attention now.

If you are not sure which shrubs can be pruned now, the rule of thumb is: if it flowers before midsummer (mid-June), prune it immediately after flowering and, if it flowers later, prune it in late winter or early spring. You can apply that rule to almost any plant with woody stems.

And next time...

Like the idea of always having a meal available in your garden whenever you want it? Then have a go at growing your own – if you've never tried or if you are already a budding allotment grower next month we will be looking at things to consider when planning a veg patch.

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HOMES

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Elephant has been offering a full service to their customers throughout Kent for their conservatories for 40 years, a service that is now offered to all orangery customers, from initial consultation, survey, CAD drawings, planning and manufacture to installation, all free of charge.

The business can even deal with obtaining planning permission through the Elephant Windows planning consultant, giving a holistic service from start to finish, with satisfaction guaranteed, so making it easy to get that extra room customers have always wanted.

The contemporary orangeries from Elephant are entirely bespoke and an ideal way to introduce more space without having to sacrifice any of the garden.

Choosing a wall of Elephant's bi-folding aluminium doors means the space has a dual function: close them and customers gain an indoor dining room, playroom or kitchen; leave them open and the garden becomes an extension of the home's living space.

They are also ideal for entertaining, especially in the summer, when doors can be left open, making for a seamless transition between home and garden, enabling a party or other social event to spill out of the house into the sunshine, maximising space while at the same time providing elegance to an existing home.

Conservatories are another great way to give the home that all-important light and airy feeling.

A place to relax with large windows, they allow a view out to the garden, increasing the feeling of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

With the addition of plants and carefully-arranged furniture, they can add markedly to the style and individuality of any home as well as considerably increasing its value.

Addition of a drinks cabinet is always welcome, especially when the room is used for entertaining guests, and a dining table can be used to give something of an alfresco feel to meals taken in the room rather than in a more formal home setting.

All Elephant staff are experts at understanding and delivering what you want to make your house the home of your dreams. For more information or a free quotation about the design excellence, you can phone Elephant on 0800 195 0000 or visit www.elephantwindows.co.uk.

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Stamp-duty holiday pushes sales up

HOUSE sales in the South East edged up slightly during January as an increased number of first-time buyers looked to beat the stamp-duty holiday, which expires in March, says the latest RICS UK Housing Market survey.

A total of 14 per cent more surveyors across the region reported rises rather than falls in newly-agreed sales since the beginning of the year. From Saturday, March 24, first-time buyers will no longer be exempt from stamp duty on properties under £250,000 and some surveyors note this has produced an increase in activity at the lower end of the market.

In light of this, respondents in the region were optimistic about prospects in the near term, as a net balance of 27 per cent of surveyors predicted transaction levels to pick up over the coming three months. This represents the strongest reading since June 2011.

In spite of this relative optimism, prices across the region continued to drop, albeit moderately, with 16 per cent more surveyors reporting price falls rather than rises.

Looking ahead, while a cautious optimism surrounds future transaction levels, the same cannot be said for future prices. A net balance of 5 per cent more surveyors expect prices to continue falling over the coming three months.

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Special offer to help you to get on the property ladder

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MOAT, the Government-appointed Local Home-Buy Agent for Kent, is running an exclusive short-term promotion on a range of shared-ownership homes across the county.

Shared ownership is a way to get started in the housing market. Also known as part buy/part rent, this Government-funded initiative helps first-time buyers purchase a share in a new home, with a subsidised low rent payable on the remaining share.

At a later stage, a shared owner can purchase further shares in their home until they own it outright; this is known as staircasing and allows first-time buyers to work their way up to 100 per cent ownership in their own time, when they can afford it.

Moat is also giving first-time buyers the opportunity to win £300 in Bluewater shopping vouchers if they purchase one of these homes by Friday, March 23.

Many shared-ownership homes come with a range of white goods, which cuts down on added expenses. Better still, first-time buyers can take advantage of the Government's Stamp Duty holiday if they buy a home before Saturday, March 24.

There are some wonderful properties featuring in this promotion, the company says. At St Mary's Island, Chatham Maritime, Moat is offering a three-bedroom house from just £64,500 for a 30 per cent share, and a two-bedroom, first-floor apartment for £54,000 for a 30 per cent share. In Minster, first-time buyers can buy 25 per cent of a three-bedroom house at Spencers Park for just £41,250.

For apartments with excellent international rail links to London and Europe, the new Stanhope in Ashford offers 25 per cent of a one-bedroom apartment for £18,750. Alternatively, Waterstone Park in Greenhithe has a final one-bedroom, second-floor apartment available for £45,000 for a 30 per cent share.

Shared-ownership homes require smaller deposits. Purchasers need just a deposit on the share they wish to buy, not the total value of the property.

More information on this promotion, as well as property details and eligibility criteria, can be found at www.moat.co.uk/loveyourhome.

Alternatively, Paula Turner at Moat will answer questions by email on paula.turner@moat.co.uk, or you can phone 0845 3596387.

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- Mazda opens books on techno-whizz CX-5
- All-new B-Max sets new standard for Ford

'Sorcerer' returns in the guise of magical new Renault Clio

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI i30

Price: £14,495-£20,295
Driving appeal: To be confirmed when driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliabilty: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Ford Focus

Hyundai maintains relentless pursuit of Europe's first string

"WHO are those guys?" is the question posed in that classic Western, Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid, as the two heroes look back at their relentless and ever-more threatening pursuers.

It's a question European carmakers may ask, too, as they check out the threat from Hyundai's second-generation i30 five-door family hatchback arriving in March.

Not only is it with us just five years after the original – European marques generally follow a seven-year model replacement cycle – but the i30 looks like a quantum leap ahead of its by no means mundane predecessor.

The styling is far crisper and, in line with the i40 family model that wowed us last year, the cabin is far superior in style, design and quality to what has gone before – Hyundai is on a roll here and that is starting to show in stronger second-hand values.

I'm willing to bet the driving experience won't be quite on a par with the excellent Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra, but the Hyundai will be backed by the Korean marque's famous five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty, which is a powerful persuader in gloomy economic times and good for resale as well as a sign of confidence in your own products.

For those who have no intention of pushing their precious family motor to silly limits, then, the good-looking Hyundai could seem a better proposition than the European trio.

Shrewd buyers may also be tempted by the fact that all of the 1.6CRDi diesel manual versions come with Hyundai's Blue Drive eco technologies as standard, offering road tax-exempt CO_2 emissions of 97g/km on the lowest output 110PS (109bhp) version and pound-stretching economy without compromising on low-down power output.

The new generation i30 will be available in four main trim levels – Classic, Active, Style and Style Nav – with an entry-level 1.4-litre petrol option from £14,495 as well as the diesel (from £16,895) mentioned earlier.

New standard features on the i30 include voice-activated Bluetooth connectivity, LED daytime running lights, multi-function steering wheel for audio and other controls and electrically-adjustable and heated door mirrors. Mid-range Active trim (from £15,595) includes alloys, cruise control, rear parking sensors and Hyundai's new dynamic Flex Steer system.

Trading up to Style models (from £16,595), though, brings the sort of luxuries that would cost far more with other marques, such as 16-inch alloys, dual-zone climate control, front parking sensors, rain-sensing wipers, cornering lights, automatic headlights, automatic de-fog system for front windscreen and electrically-folding door mirrors with LED indicators.

Topping the range is Style Nav, which brings a touch-screen satellite navigation system and rear-view parking camera.

ON THE TRAIL: This new-look i30 follows the standards set by Hyundai's i40 model combining style, design and quality to surpass what has gone before

DON'T LIKE

...the fact Hyundai remains a highly underrated brand in the UK. Is it badge snobbery or a simple lack of awareness?

NOT SURE

...the Korean marque will yet be a match on handling against established rivals like the Ford Focus, VW Golf and Vauxhall Astra.

REALLY LIKE

...how Hyundai has mastered the art of matching exterior and interior style and quality in this latest generation of models, started by the i40.

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1999 (T) FORD MONDEO LX 5 door Hatchback black, with all usual extras, lower than average mileage example, 1988cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£695**

2000 (X) KIA CLARUS Executive 4 door Saloon black, with all usual extras, 1998cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£695**

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X1 marks the crossover spot as BMW drives for perfection

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHO would have thought, just a few years ago, that BMW would make such a success out of producing 4x4s and SUVs?

After all, we are talking about the legendary producer of sharp handling conventional cars – the premium purveyor of the 'Ultimate Driving Machine', to quote the marque's famous marketing slogan.

What could such people want with clumsy, lumpy almost oafish 4x4s?

Except that BMW has, more than any other marque, turned the 4x4 image on its head, first with the big yet nimble X5 and then with a whole family of high-riding 4x4s that recognise how top quality road manners come first with off-road ability thrown in afterwards.

Of course, the off-road power has sometimes come a distant second – as in the case of the first generation X3 – while the X6 4x4 coupé is something of a contradiction in terms.

However, the X-Series has gone from being a novelty turn to one of BMW's main players.

Which brings us to the youngest and smallest member and also the odd one out in the German marque's four-model X line-up

That's because it's available with rear-wheel drive only if required, adding to the overall X1 proposition as a premium cheap-to-run off-roader style car.

This appeal also takes it into crossover territory, the glamorous new niche exposed by the Nissan Qashqai and now fast becoming a best-selling sector in the UK.

What crossovers have done is shown that chunky high-riding cars are perfectly acceptable in all walks of life and, in doing so, have made inroads into family hatchback and MPV sales.

And the X1 has all of that crowd-pleasing versatility, too, with a high driving position, butch styling and a versatile five-door body.

Being the most compact X-series car it's also more affordable (from £24,420) and more at home in the tighter confines of the town and city.

BMW has adopted a down-to-earth approach to marketing the car, too, with just one powertrain, a 2.0-litre turbodiesel with six-speed manual 'box as standard, but it's available with four different outputs.

Our xDrive 18d MSport test car loaned by Broad Oak BMW of Ashford and Canterbury had the most junior 143bhp package, but that still delivers 0-62mph in a shade over 10 seconds, even with the 4x4 set-up denoted by its xDrive label – rear-wheel drive only models carry the sDrive tag. The six-speed manual gearbox and BMW's standard EfficientDynamics economy package also enables the car to average around 50mpg – not bad for a sporting all-wheel drive crossover vehicle.

And, of course, being a BMW means it toes the line literally on driving and handling, aided and abetted by well-ordered ratios on the gearbox. It is quite astonishing in fact to feel how flat the car remains on corners rather than healing over in the more typical 4x4/SUV fashion.

Though you sit higher, you really do feel that you could be in the marque's best-selling 3-Series, although not so surprising since the X1 is based upon the same platform.

As you might expect, such grip and serenity comes as the price of a slightly harder ride, though it's not awful and the X1 cruises with refinement on the motorway.

It is the smallest of the X-Series so you wouldn't expect great roominess, but the only black mark is against the middle rear seat where legroom either side of the transmission hump is a bit tight.

Headroom in the back is excellent though and boot and cargo capacity is similarly impressive, especially once the split/folding rear seats are flat to the floor.

As expected from BMW, the dashboard is has a logical and driver-pleasing style, even though the quality of the materials is not quite up to the usual standard.

BMW X1 XDRIVE 18D MSPORT: PRICE £27,865

ODD ONE OUT: BMW's X1 is the only one of its 4x4 range with rear-wheel-drive only if required, taking it into crossover territory, fast becoming the best-selling sector in the country

FACT FILE

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Space:	★★★
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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Fresh Ceed at Geneva show

KIA aims to wow the prestigious Geneva Motor Show (March 8-18) by using it again for the public debut of the new Ceed family hatchback.

This time it's the second generation of the model that has done most to transform the Korean marque into a respected player with UK car buyers.

The original version also launched Kia's unique seven-year warranty.

Order book is open for CX-5

MAZDA has announced prices for its all-new technologically-advanced and sporty CX-5 crossover/SUV, arriving this spring.

It will cost from £21,395 and be offered with a choice of petrol or diesel engines and two-wheel or all-wheel drive (from £24,695) with the most fuel efficient versions capable of averaging more than 60mpg, and CO_2 emissions as low as 119g/km – supermini territory.

Ford scores with its doors

FORD will blow the doors off the mini-MPV sector with its all-new B-Max arriving in late summer.

The car does away with a central door pillar and features sliding rear doors, together allowing an unrivalled 1.5-metre wide access for passengers and luggage – a potential boon to young mums.

The rival Vauxhall Meriva offers 0.7 metres through its rear doors.

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Gordini shows it's a real deal for Renault

1ST DRIVE

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HERE'S a bit of fun...

Renault has made its sporty Clio Gordini sub-brand more affordable and sensible without dulling the entertainment value.

The 200bhp two-litre Clio Gordini (£19,870) flagship is pitched a little too high for most pockets and confusingly close to Renault's out-and-out sporting brand, Renaultsport, but the French marque has now produced two budget versions wearing the evocative twin-stripe Gordini label made famous in the 1950s and 1960s on competition cars prepared by Amédée 'The Sorceror' Gordini.

A 128bhp 1.6-litre petrol version is the new Clio Gordini entry model at £14,000, and joined by the car reviewed here, featuring a 106bhp 1.5-litre diesel and priced at £14,950.

Normally, diesels don't sit comfortably in superminis since the extra weight of the engine often dulls the handling, but that isn't the case here and the diesel (11.1 seconds) is only a couple of seconds slower on the 0-62mph dash than its 1.6 petrol sister (9.3 seconds).

But where it really scores is with an average mpg in the 60s rather than the 40s for the petrol car and, with not so ridiculous group 16 insurance, that makes it a sensible commuter car that's also stylish and fun enough to blow away the gloom of our straitened times.

Of course, it looks the part with its Gordini stripes from nose to tail, two-tone alloys and twin exhaust and Renault has done well to spark up the interior with sumptuous two-tone leather seats – a £750 option.

It would have been nice though to have some colour-co-ordinated seat belts in the style of 1980s hot hatches.

And the overall Clio dashboard and interior trim is now looking a bit low rent in high specification models like this.

But, hey, this is a well-priced sporty yet practical car wearing a star name, and is worth a second look.

A1 marks for being green

BEING seen to be green is becoming increasingly important for some people and, if they can be seen in something chic and stylish, then so much the better.

It's one reason why BMW's low-emission, road-tax-exempt Mini D has become the biggest-seller in the line-up by a long way.

But now there's competition, from the ultra green version of Audi's would-be Mini basher, the A1 hatch.

Like many eco warrior motors, the A1 103bhp 1.6TDI has had its powertrain tweaked to cut CO_2 emissions below the payable level for road tax – it emits just 99g/km of CO_2 – without taking too much away from flexibility. It should also average around 70mpg.

Admittedly, if you do wish to be a motoring contradiction though and drive this eco model hard then you may find it wanting in acceleration and a bit loud – the sporty and firm S Line suspension on the test car seemed a bit contradictory, too.

Driven sensibly though and this A1 shows that you can have a good environmental conscience and still drive and arrive in style.

Of course, it helps that the car is impeccably constructed – though its Mini arch-rival does not go wanting here either – and cuts a premium dash.

Interior quality and layout is classy, durable and stylish, and prices start at a not unreasonable £14,480.

Start speccing up with other premium goodies though and, like the Mini, you'll be gulping for air – the flagship S line test car had various extras adding up to a total bill of £ 22,545 that looks a bit steep for a three-door supermini.

Stick with the cheaper and less tautly-sprung versions, though, and enjoy making your environmental statement.

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New Registration 2012

COUPE-STYLE WITH PRACTICALITY: A third door on the pavement side makes the new Hyundai Veloster unique in the market, while the stylish all-new 2012 Honda Civic, below, is made in the UK

Make big savings with a new '12 plate

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IF the new car market is any barometer, then the UK economy is already starting to turn around.

Demand for new cars in 2011 managed to defy the worst industry predictions; though the 1.94 million registrations was still down 4.4 per cent on 2010, it was far better than the gloomy 1.92 million forecast.

The supplier of those figures and motor industry mouthpiece, the SMMT (Society of Motors Manufacturers and Traders), still expects a tough 2012, but chief executive Paul Everitt said: "Record numbers of new and updated models, significantly improved fuel efficiency and exciting new technologies will help to encourage consumers into showrooms."

And that's the point: with so many technical and money-saving developments, people are buying because running a newer car can save money, while leaving it in a savings account makes hardly anything.

Fuel-sipping diesel and alternatively fuelled cars both took record market shares in 2011 as average new car CO_2 emissions fell to a new low of 138.1g/km, down 4.2 per cent on the 2010 level, while low emission cars qualify for road tax exemption or very low rates.

You can also make savings on a new '12 registration plate car from March 1 by driving a hard bargain with manufacturers and forecourts that are keen to deal and prepared to discount against the list prices.

Get a realistic valuation on your old car too, since used car values are buoyant due to the lower number of new cars sold since the recession hit in 2007, meaning fewer used cars in circulation to soak up demand from that sector.

Other buyer incentives out there include tempting finance packages or personal leases – which banks aren't keen to match – insurance and servicing.

There are also outstanding warranties available such as Kia's seven-year/100,000-mile package, Vauxhall's Lifetime package and Hyundai's five-year/unlimited mileage deal. And servicing deals can be very cost-effective, so ask about those.

Diesels may have won over many skeptics with their economy and good low-down power delivery, but petrol is making a strong case too now: petrol fuel should remain more affordable than diesel simply because of the way UK oil refining capacity is geared.

Petrol engines are also cheaper and lighter, and while they still cannot compete on absolute economy against diesels, you need to be a high mileage user to recoup the higher upfront cost of the latter. A lighter engine saves wear on the front tyres and mechanicals too.

Small and efficient turbocharged petrol units also make a difference in small cars – they are nimbler and nicer to drive – and road tax and emissions for petrol engines are both getting better.

■ **For more buying tips, check out our list of Dos and Don'ts inside...**

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Thinking small makes sense when buying new

SMALL-MINDEDNESS is really sensible when buying a car nowadays.

Two decades ago the family saloon Ford Mondeo type car dominated, thanks to the company car culture.

Then came the rise of the family hatchback and supermini; throughout the 90s and early Noughties they had a ding-dong battle for market leadership.

However, soaring fuel and insurance costs, greater environmental awareness, punitive road tax on larger cars, and ever more stylish small car designs, have enabled superminis to take some 40 per cent of sales if you include the even smaller city car segment. Even family hatchbacks had to settle for the number two spot with around 25 per cent of registrations.

More difficult to quantify though is the trend towards 'crossovers' – cars like the Kia Sportage, Hyundai ix-35 and Citroën C3 Picasso.

As the name implies they straddle several sectors including family hatchback, MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people carrier and SUV (sports utility vehicle) and are hard to pigeonhole under current classifications.

But these 'Swiss Army Knives' of the market are here to stay judging by the numbers being sold.

SIZE MATTERS: Toyota's all-new Verso-S, far left, offers people-carrier design and supermini flexibility

FRENCH CHIC: Crossover flexibility, above, with Gallic style – the Citroën C3 Picasso

STYLISH: Would it be so hard to downsize from your family motor into a sporty Vauxhall Astra GTC, pictured left?

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NEW **REG '12**

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Important dos and don'ts before buying a new car

DON'T accept the first deal on offer – be ready to haggle.

DON'T be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts or extras.

DON'T fall for what seems like a big bargain before you even haggle. It could be an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty as your old car and will depreciate badly.

DO pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

DON'T be blinded by road tax-exempt, but expensive diesel eco models – check price, running costs, green credentials and the savings over your planned ownership mileage/years, then compare against the closest standard version.

DON'T assume that diesel will save – you usually pay more upfront and the engines are generally heavier, which means more wear on front tyres and mechanicals. The fuel is also dearer at the pumps, while petrol car economy and emissions have improved and they are often nicer to drive.

CROSSOVER STYLE: Toyota's sporty RAV4 is a star of the SUV sector while one of the best-looking supermini estates has to be Seat's stylish Ibiza ST

BIG VIEW: Cab view of the Mercedes-Benz Vito – designed for driver comfort as well as efficiency and long-term reliability for the operator

Extra appeal of new vans

DESIGNING a van still requires a box for cargo, but everything else has been revolutionised in a decade.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers now get better performance, refinement and safety.

Initially, this benefited car-derived models and included air con and a decent sound system, but the philosophy has since migrated to larger vans.

The range of van capacities has also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback used for courier work or company runabouts, right up to a 17-cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin rear doors or a high lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

And petrol driven vans have been displaced by the better economy, range and low down pulling power of diesels.

Extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer lasting parts then compound diesel operating benefits.

Gearboxes have also changed. A six-speed manual gearbox is the standard – two cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutch-less transmissions. These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway, but are ideal for the stop-start urban traffic conditions and can be as economical as a manual.

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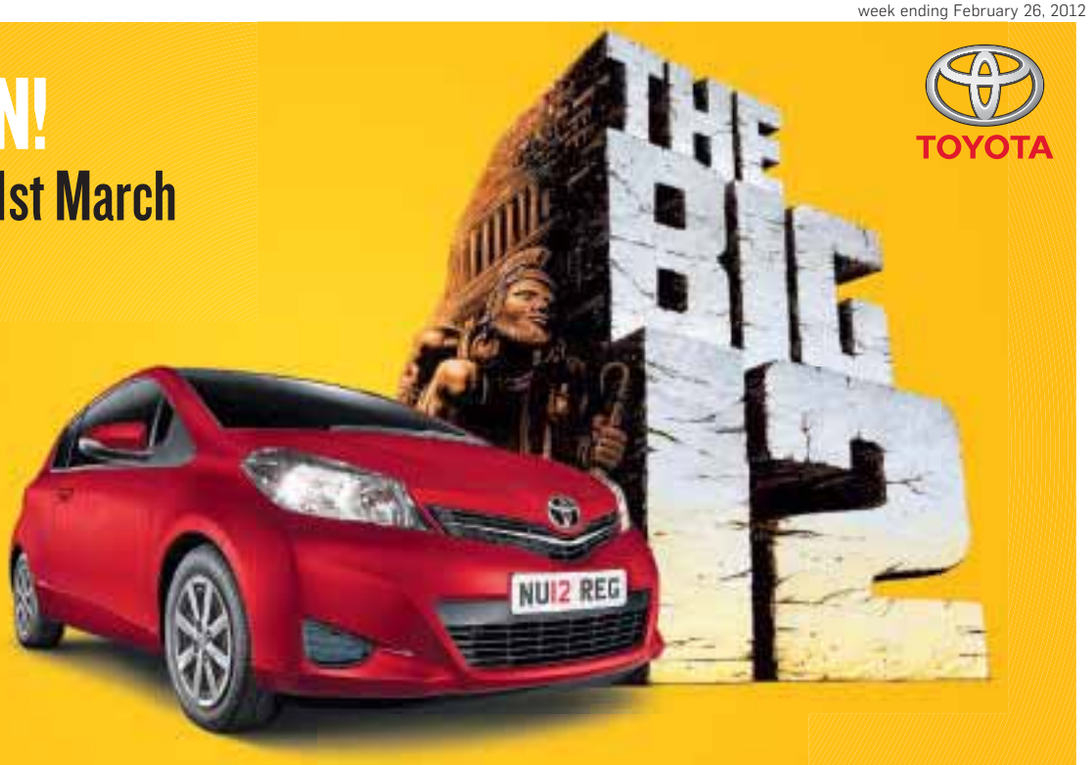

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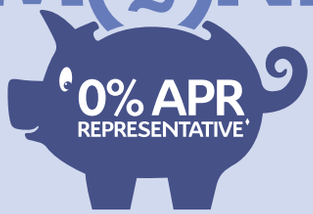

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NEW **REG '12**

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HERE IS THE HUES: Red has fallen in popularity but suits a sporty shape such as the new Kia Rio supermini, which can carry it off, whereas blue was No 3 in an industry colour poll and suits Toyota's Yaris

Go easy on the colour

RESTRAIN yourself when choosing the colour or added bling for your new '12 reg motor – that's the advice of the experts.

For you may want sell on at some stage and, like those hideous 70s bathroom suites, find that 'acid green' and 'latte brown' is not to everyone's taste, though wild colours can suit certain cars: Seat has used red, blue, yellow and white to great effect on its sporty little numbers, while Honda has also been adventurous with red and yellow on its Civic and Jazz models.

And playing safe can be a turn-off to would-be buyers too, so here a colour league table from the SMMT – the motor trade body – plus some pros and cons:

1) Black (24.7 per cent) is the perennial favourite but looks dirty quickly and shows little scratches or the swirling effect from over-use of mechanical car washes.

2) Silver (21.4) is still riding high and hides scratches and carwash abrasion well, but is increasingly seen as the boring or safe option.

3) Blue (16.5) is conservative yet smart, but very dark blue is best avoided.

4) Grey Metallic (14.4) – more assertive and up-market than silver?

5) Red (10.2) had fallen away due to a tendency to go pinker with age, but better finishes and use on sportier models has helped stabilise figures.

6) White (10) has shot back up the charts: it's usually a no-cost option, handles wear and tear well and also reflects the heat.

Also-rans: Green (1.1), Beige (0.9), Yellow (0.4) and Brown (0.4)

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CT 200h prices start from £23,750 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £24,260 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. *7.9% APR Representative and £500 finance deposit allowance over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase (PCP) available on new retail sales of CT 200h ordered and proposed for finance between 9 December 2011 and 31 March 2012, registered and financed by 30 June 2012, through Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 miles at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 l/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km). CO_2 emissions combined 94 g/km.

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NEW **REG '12**

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More motorists are buying into 'green' savings

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CARE for the environment can be a good enough reason for buying a greener car.

But many buyers now realize that care for the wallet is another, with many new models not only helping to offset ever-rising fuel bills, but also lowering or even removing road tax bills altogether.

The latest tax bandings range from zero for those cars with the lowest CO_2 emissions right up to £950 a year for gas guzzling limos or 4x4s.

Of course, anyone spending £50,000-£100,000 on a new motor won't worry about small change like that, but most people like saving a few quid on their fuel and tax while, incidentally, doing their bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars may be the answer and there has been much publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or city centre charging points.

But battery technology has some catching up to do and the zero emissions argument is misleading. Until we have zero emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO_2 and noxious gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney.

Production of hydrogen to power our cars raises a similar dilemma.

So, are hybrids the answer, then?

Japanese giants Toyota and Honda lead here, pairing conventional engines with electric power and batteries.

But hybrids tend to be dearer upfront so the internal combustion 'lump' still has a part to play now that its emissions are plummeting, economy soaring, and refinement improving.

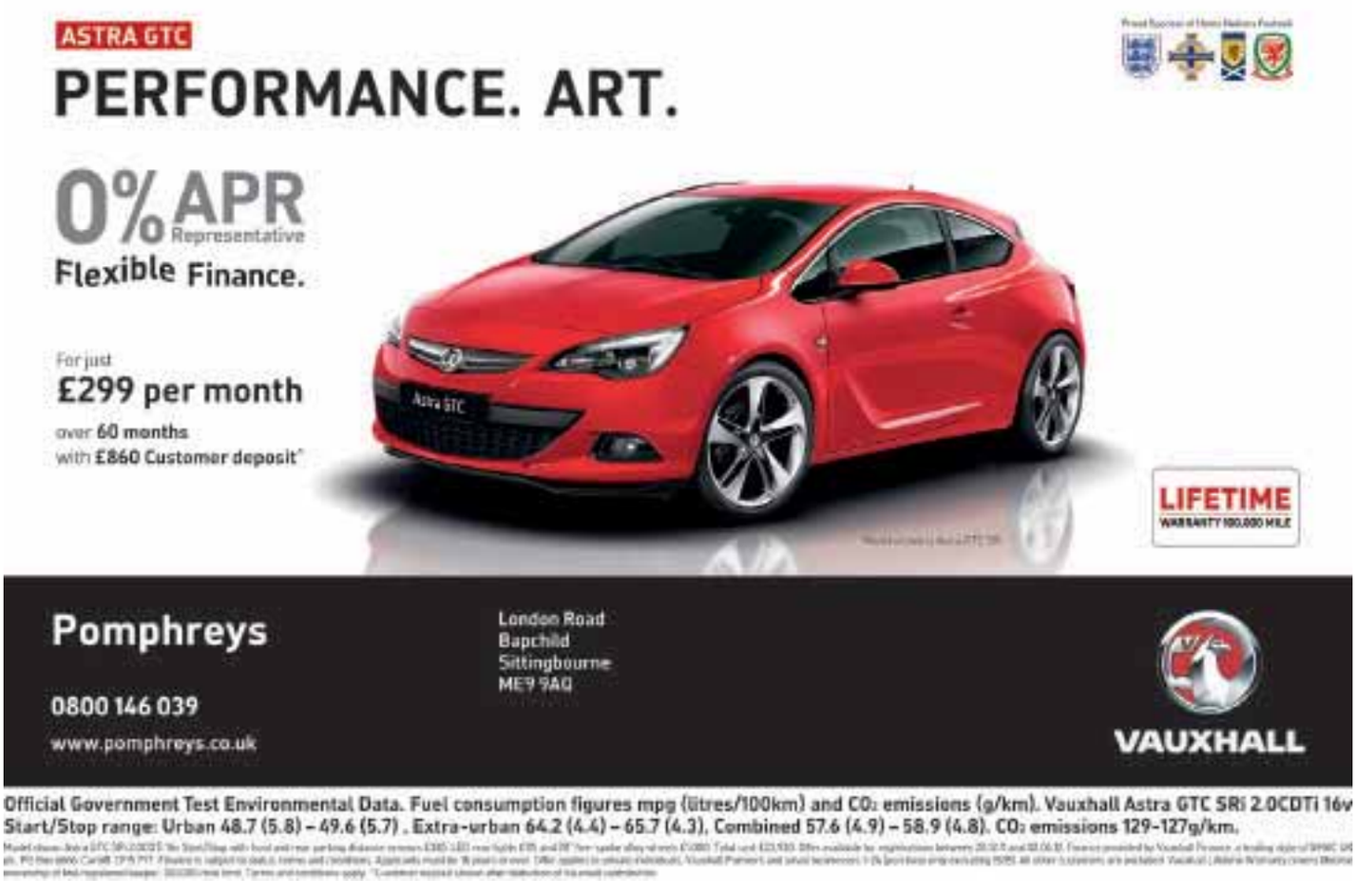
In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what some legislative prods have achieved.

The downsizing phenomenon is well under way, too, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful'. Most carmakers also now have an 'eco' sub brand such as Vauxhall's Ecoflex, Hyundai's Blue Drive models and Kia's Ecodynamics range.

But they often don't come cheap either, so weigh potential long-term savings against upfront cost; if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines.

TOP BUYS: The Lexus CT200h, above, is currently the only small executive hybrid car; Hyundai's classy i40 Tourer is available in eco-friendly Blue Drive



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Fuel economy figures for the NEW MICRA 1.2 ACENTA 5 DOOR mpg (L/100km). Urban - 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban - 65.7 (4.3), Combined - 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 emissions 115 g/km. NOTE 1.4 n-tec+ 5 DOOR Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 emissions 139 g/km.

SPECIAL REPORT

The mysterious case of why the county struggles to produce England stars

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR the first time ever this summer, Kent could punch above its weight at football's European Championships, with two of the 23-man squad likely to be from the county.

On current form, Liverpool's Glen Johnson, and Manchester United's Chris Smalling are both expected to be selected by whichever manager the FA next decides to throw £6 million a year at.

While both were born in Greenwich, they were predominantly raised in Kent, with Johnson going to the Leigh Academy in Dartford and Smalling attending Chatham Grammar School.

The population of England is approximately 51 million, of whom around 1.6 million, a little over three percent, live in Kent yet historically the county hasn't produced top-flight footballers in anything like the numbers needed to make a regular contribution to the England team.

The last great hope, the Maidstone-born Jon Harley, made 42 appearances for Chelsea, without ever making the anticipated breakthrough at the highest level. He's had a respectable career and a scattering of others are in the professional ranks, like Snodland's Paul Jones at Peterborough, or Maidstone's Doug Loft at Port Vale. But Kent undoubtedly underachieves.

Glenn Aitken, a former Wimbledon player who went on to become chief executive at Gravesend & Northfleet, and now coaches Kent's under-15s, believes too many players are put off by their experiences with big clubs.

"I've thought long and hard about this and had the debate with various people," he said. "The system breaks down between the schools and the professional clubs. The professional clubs are keen to get their hands on the talented players as early as possible, but they're equally keen to get rid of them six weeks or two years later. There's not a smooth transition and I see a lot of talent wasted."

BUCKING THE TREND: Man Utd's Chris Smalling back in his Maidstone days - destined for the Euros?

Not everyone copes with the rejection.

"At the games I manage there are scouts from Chelsea, Aston Villa and Fulham," Aitken said. "(But) playing for Kent has lost some of the esteem it used to have. People used to aspire to play for Kent but now they're sold on the idea of joining a professional club as soon as possible. Once they're ditched they tend not to comeback.

"We are producing players of quality like Chris Smalling which proves it's not essential to go with the pro clubs but it is important to get good quality coaching."

Smalling's climb from Maidstone United, via Fulham, to champions United in the space of just a handful of years, has been often been cited how top talent can be spotted, nurtured and capitalised on.

Yet Aitken believes clubs are looking at players with technical ability at an early age to the exclusion of those who could still develop.

"A lot of players have the will to win but at 13 or 14 or even eight or nine they may not have the skills," he said. "Professional clubs go for the players who have the skills but may not have the will to win."

That could be attributed to Kent being a predominantly middle class county. England internationals come from overwhelmingly working class backgrounds and while it's something of a cliché to say that players from wealthy backgrounds lack incentives, the question of hunger is valid according to Chatham Town's Keith Levett, who is heavily involved in player development around the county and also runs Welling United's academy.

"There's no one reason why Kent doesn't produce so many top players," he said. "There are lots of factors but one is that Kent is quite an affluent county. I'm not saying there aren't deprived areas because there are, but players (in Kent) tend to come from well-off backgrounds. It's also possible that we don't really have a marquee club to attract the talent. We've got Gillingham and Maidstone's a massive town that might start producing players when the new stadium gets built, but players often get mopped up by London clubs."

If Kent produced a number of internationals proportionate to its population it would contribute one player to the England squad for three out of every four major tournaments, but Johnson's selection for South Africa 2010 was the first time a player with anything other than a tenuous connection to the county had even come close to a call-up since Yalding's David Sadler was left out of Alf Ramsey's final squad for Mexico in 1970.

Paradoxically every Republic of Ireland squad for a major tournament has included at least one Kent-born player.

St Paul's Cray's Tony Cascarino, Maidstone-born Andy Townsend and former Maidstone and Gillingham defender Gary Breen all won international call-ups.

HORSE RACING

York double pulls in crowds at Point-to-Point

IT may not come with quite the glitz and glamour associated with the 'sport of kings' but the ever popular Charing Point-to-Point meeting last weekend still pulls in the crowds.

The popular meeting took place last Sunday with punters enjoying a packed card.

And it was a late double from Phil York which proved the highlight.

York brought the event to a close by taking the fifth race on the 4-1 shot Ringa Bay, then the sixth on the 6-1 Encatadora, beating a trio of fancied horses by six clear lengths.

The meeting began with Will Hickman riding the evens favourite Mr Maybe to victory, ahead of the 2-1 Chosen Few, in the first race, the Gill Jarvis Memorial.

James Tudor then took the 7-4 joint-favourite Harbour Court to first place in the Members Restricted Race, but riding Bon Accord he was beaten into third by the 14-1 shot Master T in the next race, the Shepherd Neame Open, which Master T, ridden by Peter Bull, won by three lengths from Man from Moscow.

Claire Douglas took the Jeffrey and Penny Peate Ladies Open on the 5-2 Tom's Toybox, ahead of Frankie Hickman on Knock on the Head and Gemma Cobb's Master Alf, who pipped the favourite Horner Woods for third spot.

The next South East Area point-to-point event in Kent is at Penshurst on March 17.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

LEAP: The winter sun shone for the horses and jockeys at popular race meeting

FOOTBALL

FA Vase dream still alive as Bay secure quarter-final berth

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

HERNE Bay took a step closer to becoming only the second Kent club ever to reach the final of the FA Vase after booking a place in the last eight.

The Kent League side overcame Larkhall Athletic 1-0 in a thrilling fifth round match at Winch's Field last Saturday, setting up a quarter-final clash with Shortwood United next weekend.

The only Kent side ever to reach the final was Deal Town in 2000, who went on to win the tournament at the old Wembley Stadium with a 1-0 win over Chippenham Town.

A goal four minutes from time from James Campbell gave the Bay a chance to emulate that - and the win they fully deserved, despite having played with ten men for over an hour, after a red card for Tom Parker.

Herne Bay were the better side throughout, but were reduced to ten when Parker was singled out for an alleged head butt during a brawl that broke out after a tackle by Michael Turner on 28 minutes.

The decision fired Herne Bay up according to their manager Simon Halsey.

"When we went down to ten I thought it might not be our day," he admitted.

"There were 20 players having a melee so how he's picked our player out and shown him a red, then shown one of their's a yellow I don't know. But we just thought stuff it, we're still here so let's go for it."

The Bay switched to a 3-4-2 formation and continued to attack.

Although clear cut chances were limited both Byron Walker and Rhys Lawson tested the visiting keeper Chris Snoddy and the breakthrough finally came on 86 minutes when Campbell headed in Michael Jenner's free-kick.

"It's the furthest the club have gone, the players gone and I've gone in the FA Vase so obviously it's right up there with the best days we've had," Halsey said, though he insisted their immediate focus was this weekend's Kent League Premier Division clash at home to Cray Valley.

WEMBLEY: Herne Bay are two rounds away

Herne Bay went into the game 10 points clear of their closest rivals Erith Town at the top of the table, but inevitably thoughts have turned to the quarter-final.

Shortwood beat Ashington United 3-0 in their fifth-round tie and are currently third in the Hellenic League, 19 points adrift of the leaders, Ardley, but with six games in hand.

Herne Bay will be sending someone to their league cup tie with Woodley this weekend and Halsey said Larkhall, who come from nearby Bath, had given them "a few pointers".

By reaching the last eight, Herne Bay have produced the best performance by a Kent side in the FA Vase since Deal won the competition outright in 2000, the year when Ramsgate also reached the quarter-finals.

To date Deal are the only Kent side ever to have reached the final, although Hythe came agonisingly close in 1990, losing a semi-final to Yeading 4-3 on aggregate to a late deflected goal.

■ **For all the latest sports news visit www.kentnews.co.uk**

MOTORSPORT

Civic tour for Matt Neal

BRITISH Touring Car champion Matt Neal got behind the wheel of Honda Racing's new Civic at Brands Hatch this week, when the car had its first public outing during an Indy circuit test day.

Joining Neal was team-mate and 2011 BTCC series runner-up Gordon Sheddon.

Neal said: "We're just going through the systems, it's brand new out of the box so there's a lot to go through. "

Round one of the BTCC takes place at Brands Hatch on March 31 - April 1

BRANDS: Neal gets to grips with the new Honda

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Kent quartet star as England trounce New Zealand in Twenty20 series

KENT'S cricketers were heavily involved at Auckland's Eden Park on Tuesday, as England took an unassailable 3-0 lead in their Twenty20 series with New Zealand, going into this weekend's final fixtures.

The Kent duo of Lydia Greenway and Tamsin Beaumont helped England recover to 108-6 after a top-order collapse and the Kiwis fell short, ending on 90-6 when rain stopped play to hand England a 10-run win via the Duckworth Lewis Method.

Greenway and Beaumont put on 46 to steer England out of danger and it was the second time in as many games that a Kent partnership proved crucial to England's hopes.

A vital opening stand of 82 between Laura Marsh and Charlotte Edwards had helped England to a 48-run victory in the second game at Hamilton on Sunday.

Marsh was England's top scorer with 48 from just 29 balls as England posted 166-7, with Edwards, England's captain, making 33.

England were put in to bat after losing the toss and the Kent duo's stand gave the tourists the platform to accelerate in the final overs.

"It was nice to get off to a good start with the bat and I formed a good opening partnership with Lottie," Marsh said.

"It's always great to get off to a good start in Twenty20 cricket. You've got to make the most of those first six overs.

"It makes it easier for the girls coming in lower down the order to come in and keep going."

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Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i S 5dr
RRP £16,205

Saving **£2,282**
Perrys Price **£13,923**

5 years 0%, No deposit | FlexDoors & FlexSpace Seating System, Lifetime Warranty

Vauxhall Astra 1.7CDTi Exclusiv S/S 5dr
RRP £20,100

Saving **£2,604**
Perrys Price **£17,496**

5 years 0%, No deposit | Nil Road Tax, No Congestion Charge | Lifetime Warranty

Vauxhall Agila 1.0i S 5dr
RRP £10,435

Saving **£1,140**
Perrys Price **£9,295**

5 years 0%, No deposit | Lifetime Warranty

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Range. Urban: 16.5 (17.1)-67.3 (4.2). Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9)-91.1 (3.1). Combined: 25.0 (11.3)-80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 265-94g/km.

FREE# TANK OF FUEL
With every single New car sold.
ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER

www.PERRYS.co.uk

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Perrys of Broadstairs Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2NP
01843 448 328 www.perrys.co.uk/broadstairs-vauxhall

Perrys of Dover Honeywood Parkway, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PT
01304 448 387 www.perrys.co.uk/dover

VAUXHALL

The Talk to Perrys offer relates to the potential reductions in Fuel costs, Road Fund Licence, Insurance Policy or ongoing servicing and MOT costs associated with an older car compared to most brand new vehicles. Not all Brand New vehicle options may deliver a saving, please check with your local Perrys showroom for full written details. # Free tank of fuel voucher redeemable on retail sales only. Offer valid until 31st March 2012 only one voucher per transaction. Not to be used in conjunction with any other deal. *Finance subject to status. 0% APR and NIL Deposit not available on Expression models or vehicles wholesaled to Perrys from Vauxhall. Ask for full details. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. *Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Offers are available for registrations between 2012.11 and 02.04.12 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded, cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only.